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MAGIC... STRANGE
SECRETS OF FORBIDDEN
LANDS! THEY'RE ALL IN
"CONGO EPISODE!"

JOHN
WHITNEY





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TONY PASCARELLA

BEFORE

"Here's me—a bag-of-bones weakling before I mailed the coupon."

AFTER

"I ADDED 3 NEW INCHES TO MY CHEST."

"I PUT 3 NEW INCHES OF ROCK-LIKE MUSCLE ON EACH ARM!"

WOW! What an AMAZING HE-MAN TONY IS NOW!

He gained **28 MUSCLE-PACKED POUNDS** all over! Won **NEW HANDSOME LOOKS... NEW POPULARITY.**

World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

Shows YOU How in **10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!**

COME ON PAL! Now YOU make me prove it! Give my easy, quick course just 10 pleasant minutes a day in your own home like Tony did. In a few short weeks your puny, old frame will come alive with smooth, giant HE-MAN MUSCLES and POWER to make you PROUD!

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On the beach, in the gym, on the job, in sports your new rippling, strong-as-iron muscles, new jetline body will win every admiration, bring you SUCCESS. Test and proved Jowett training will bring you new men and women friends, new popularity everywhere you go.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are. I'll make you OVER the SAME secret method I turn myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. I can do for you what I do each year for MANY THOUSANDS of weaklings like Tony who

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5 PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN BOOKS

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ALL 5 BIG BOOKS YOURS! COUNT THEM!

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1

says John Sill

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By GEORGE F. JOWETT

"I added 7 inches to my CHEST 3 inches to each ARM."

says Jobie Jackson

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

2

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

4

SPECIAL! IF YOU ACT AT ONCE, I will ALSO send FREE a BIG thrilling book of PHOTOS of strong men and boys I have changed from unhappy WEAKLINGS into happy, vigorous HE-MEN.

5

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY LEGS

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

3

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK

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Dept. AM-

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R. F. Kelley
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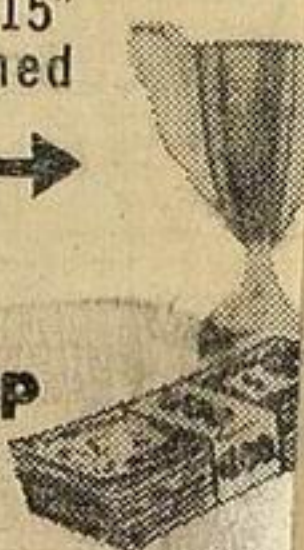
Dear George: Please send me FREE a Muscle Meter and all 5 books in one volume "How to Become a Mighty HE-MAN." extra promptness, also send Jowett's PHOTO BOOK of Strong Men. Enclosed find 10¢ POSTAGE AND HANDLING. (No C.O.D.) Please tell me how I can start your training and get the results that Tony did.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

MAIL NOW! SAVES YOU YEARS and DOLLARS!



THE GIRL ^{ON} KENNISTON CRAG!



GREAT HEAVENS, SHE... SHE'S NOT LEAVING ANY FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW!

THE BLAZING LIGHTS OF DICEY MANOR LAY DEAD AHEAD... ALREADY I COULD HEAR THE STRAINS OF AN 18TH CENTURY ORCHESTRA PLAYING A WALTZ! BUT THERE WAS TO BE NO GAIETY FOR ME! I WAS IN QUEST OF A TERRIBLE SECRET... AND WAS PREPARED TO RISK ALL TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH!

John F.

BUT LET ME GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING... TO A LONDON HOSPITAL WHERE I WAS RECOVERING FROM A SERIOUS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN...



THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR WORKING SO HARD WHEN I WAS ALREADY RUNNING A FEVER! AMAZING HOW DELICATE A THING THE HUMAN MIND IS!

MY PHYSICIAN WAS THE NOTED NEUROLOGIST, SIR ALFRED BLAKE...



WELL, HOW DOES OUR BRILLIANT ASTRONOMER FEEL TODAY?

NOT SO BRILLIANT... BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT CONFUSED ANY MORE!

THE VERY THING WHICH HAD WON ME A REPUTATION AS A DARING ASTRONOMICAL THEORIST HAD BROUGHT ME LOW... THE BOLD SWEEP OF MY IMAGINATION...

NO MORE WORK ON THAT BOOK OF YOURS, CHARLES... NOT FOR A LONG TIME!

OH, DON'T WORRY... I'M HEARTILY SICK OF IT! BUT I **DID** HAVE A POINT ABOUT THE RELATIVITY OF TIME... ITS ILLUSORY QUALITY...

BROODING OVER THOSE COMPLEX PROBLEMS, I'D SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF THINKING THE FUTURE WAS THE PRESENT, THE PAST THE FUTURE... IT WAS ALL TERRIBLY MUDDLED...

IT'S EASY TO LAUGH ABOUT IT **NOW**... BUT AT THE TIME, IT WAS VERY **REAL**!

HALLUCINATORY MANIAS USUALLY ARE! BUT THAT'S PAST... I **GUARANTEE** IT!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, WHEN I WAS ALMOST READY TO BE DISCHARGED...

YOU'LL NEED A LONG VACATION... WITH **NO WORK**! YOUR MIND'S FAR TOO IMPORTANT TO SCIENCE TO JEOPARDIZE IT FURTHER! I'VE MADE EXTENSIVE PLANS FOR YOU...

HE'D RENTED A HOUSE FOR ME IN A LONELY PART OF SCOTLAND! THERE'D BE NO BOOKS, RADIO OR TELEPHONE...

NOTHING BUT **REST**! I'LL DROP BY TO SEE YOU WHEN I CAN!

YOU'RE A HARD MAN, SIR ALFRED... CAN'T I EVEN READ THE **NEWSPAPERS**?

THE TRIP ITSELF WAS RESTFUL... THE ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE... THE THINNING POPULATION! THE HOUSE WHICH WAS TO BE MINE WAS OVER 30 MILES FROM THE TINY RAILWAY STATION...

THE WAY THE NATIVES AROUND HERE DRESS AND ACT... WHY, IT'S LIKE GOING BACK 100 YEARS! OH-OH, BETTER CLOSE OFF **THAT** LINE OF THOUGHT... IT'S TOO **DANGEROUS**!

IT WAS AN OLD STONE COTTAGE ON A LONELY HEIGHT, CONSTANTLY SWEEPED BY STRONG WINDS...

WELCOME, MR. BANNISTER! EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS!

THANK YOU!

THERE WASN'T ANOTHER HOUSE WITHIN MILES! I SETTLED DOWN FOR A LONG CONVALESCENCE, WITH NO COMPANY APART FROM THE HOUSEKEEPER AND THE AGING HANDYMAN...

YOUR AFTERNOON TEA, MR. BANNISTER!

JUST TWO WEEKS HAVE GONE BY... AND THE BOREDOM IS **KILLING** ME!

IN A WILD, UNTAMED WAY, THE SURROUNDINGS WERE QUITE BEAUTIFUL... BUT IT SOON BECAME MONOTONOUS! I TOOK LONG WALKS ON THE LONELY MOORS... NEVER ENCOUNTERING A SOUL...

IF I DON'T FIND SOME DIVERSION SOON, I REALLY **WILL** GO MAD! SIR ALFRED MUST HAVE BEEN **BALMY** TO SUGGEST THIS!



ONE COLD DAY I WENT AS FAR AS **KENNISTON CRAG**, THE FORBIDDING OUTCROPPING OF ROCK WHICH DOMINATED THE SINISTER MOORS SURROUNDING IT! I WAS LOST IN THOUGHT WHEN SUDDENLY...

YOU'RE A **STRANGER** IN THESE PARTS, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT THE...!



HER VOICE ALMOST SCARED ME OUT OF MY WITS! FOR A MOMENT BEFORE, MY EYES HAD SWEEPED THE TERRAIN... AND THERE HAD BEEN **NO ONE IN SIGHT!**

I... I'M AFRAID YOU **STARTLED** ME... I DIDN'T SEE YOU COMING!

YOU **ARE** A STRANGER, AREN'T YOU? I KNOW MOST OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE!



THERE WAS A DELICIOUS SCENT OF HEATHER ABOUT THIS GIRL, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE I'D EVER SEEN!

MY NAME'S **CHARLES BANNISTER**... AND I AM NEW AROUND HERE!

I'M **ANNE DICEY**! I LIVE OVER AT DICEY MANOR A FEW MILES YONDER! KENNISTON CRAG IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE HAUNTS!



HER EYES FASCINATED ME! THEY SEEMED TO STRIKE INTO MY HEART, AND I FELT MYSELF FALLING UNDER A STRANGE SPELL...

I'M A RATHER LONELY MAN, MISS DICEY... I HOPE I MAY SEE MORE OF YOU!

AS I'VE SAID, I COME HERE **OFTEN!** YOU MAY CALL ME **ANNE!**



THE THINNESS OF HER GARB AMAZED ME... AND SOMEHOW, SHE WASN'T SHIVERING AT ALL! I TURNED MY EYES FROM HER FOR A MOMENT, TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS...

DICEY MANOR? EXACTLY WHICH WAY IS THAT, ANNE?



THERE WAS NO REPLY TO MY QUESTION! SURPRISED, I TURNED... AND **SHE WAS GONE!**

GREAT SCOTT, WHERE DID SHE **GO?** THERE'S NOBODY IN **SIGHT!**



HAD MY DELICATE MIND PLAYED SOME TERRIFYING TRICK ON ME? I HURRIED HOME TO TELL THE HOUSEKEEPER OF MY ENCOUNTER...

ANNE DICEY?...OF DICEY MANOR?
SORRY, SIR, THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE AROUND **HERE!**

ARE YOU **SURE?**



THE EXPERIENCE **TERRIFIED** ME! FOR A SOLID WEEK I WENT TO THE CRAG EVERY DAY...HOPING TO MEET HER AGAIN! I THOUGHT SHE REALLY **HAD** BEEN A HALLUCINATION WHEN AT LAST...

YOU'RE...**HERE!**
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW **HAPPY** THIS MAKES ME!

I'M GLAD TO SEE **YOU** AGAIN, CHARLES...I'VE BEEN **THINKING** ABOUT YOU!



AGAIN HER EYES SEEMED TO PEER INTO MY VERY SOUL! I'D THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE BUT HER SINCE THAT FIRST MOMENT...

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU...**EVERYTHING!**
WHO ARE YOU?

PLEASE, **NO QUESTIONS!**
ISN'T IT ENOUGH I'M **HERE?**



I COULDN'T RESIST HER MYSTERIOUS ALLURE...SHE WAS LIKE A FEATHER IN MY ARMS...

FORGIVE ME, ANNE...I CAN'T HELP MYSELF...

BUT I **WANTED** YOU TO KISS ME...
DEAREST...



WHEN I LEFT THAT DAY I HADN'T LEARNED A SINGLE FACT ABOUT HER! ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I **LOVED** HER...HOPELESSLY AND COMPLETELY...

WELL, WELL! YOU'RE CERTAINLY IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS TONIGHT, MR. BANNISTER!

I SUDDENLY **LIKE** IT HERE! I'VE DISCOVERED ALL SORTS OF **CHARMS!**



AUTUMN TURNED TO WINTER, AND ANNE AND I MET DAILY AT THE CRAG, NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER...BUT SHE WOULD MEET ME NOWHERE ELSE!

ARE YOU **DAFT**, MR. BANNISTER?
THIS IS NO WEATHER FOR A WALK ON THE MOORS!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH **GOOD** IT DOES ME!



I'D GIVEN UP TRYING TO EXPLAIN HER STRANGE COMINGS AND GOINGS...ALL THAT MATTERED WAS HER PRESENCE...

YOU KNOW I **LOVE** YOU, ANNE!
I WANT TO **MARRY** YOU...
HAVE YOU WITH ME **ALWAYS!**

IT'S NOT TIME TO SPEAK OF THAT YET!
HAVE PATIENCE, MY DARLING!



I LINGERED AT THE CRAG FOR A FEW MINUTES AFTER SHE LEFT, TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HER STRANGE BEHAVIOR! IT WAS ONLY BY ACCIDENT THAT I MADE THE TERRIBLE DISCOVERY...

N-NO...IT'S **NOT POSSIBLE!** ONLY **MY** FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW...**NOT HERS!** BUT...BUT...SHE **WAS** HERE...AND SHE'S **REAL!** SHE'S **GOT TO BE REAL!**



THE THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS ONLY AN ILLUSION, A GHASTLY JEST OF MY FRAGILE BRAIN, MADDENED ME! I HAD TO MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION NOW, NO MATTER WHAT I LEARNED! THERE WAS A LITTLE VILLAGE SOME DOZEN MILES AWAY...

NO...THERE'S NO DICEY FAMILY IN **THESE** PARTS, SIR!

I...
I SEE!



NOBODY COULD HELP ME...THE NAME OF DICEY WAS **UNKNOWN!** FRANTIC, I VISITED THE VILLAGE MINISTER...

I'D LIKE TO CONSULT THE PARISH REGISTERS...I'M TRYING TO TRACK DOWN A FAMILY!

HELP YOURSELF, MR. BANNISTER! YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND THE OLD TOMES RATHER DUSTY!



IT WASN'T MY SANITY I CARED ABOUT, ONLY **LOSING** HER! FOR HOURS I PORED OVER THE OLD LEDGERS, UNTIL...

HERE IT IS...
DICEY! OH,
NO...**NO!**



THE RECORD WAS CLEAR...THE FAMILY LINE OF THE DICEYS HAD DIED OUT ALMOST **150 YEARS BEFORE**, WHEN DICEY MANOR HAD BURNED TO THE GROUND DURING A GREAT BALL! BESIDE MYSELF, I PHONED SIR ALFRED, WHO HURRIED UP IMMEDIATELY...

IT'S **NOT** MY IMAGINATION! SHE'S REAL ENOUGH, BUT **IN THE PAST!** SOMEHOW THERE'S A **FLAW** IN THE **TIME FLOW** AROUND KENNISTON CRAG...A **FLAW** WHICH HAS ALLOWED ME TO **PENETRATE INTO THE PAST!**



HE THOUGHT MY THEORY PURE NONSENSE! BUT TO HUMOR ME, WE WENT TO WHERE DICEY MANOR ONCE STOOD...

YOU SEE? HERE ARE THE CHARRED REMAINS OF THE FIRE!

THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT! TO **PROVE** HOW WRONG YOU ARE, I'LL GO TO THE CRAG **WITH** YOU...AND WE'LL **SEE** IF SHE APPEARS!



WE WENT, DAY AFTER DAY, BUT SHE NEVER CAME! BUT THAT MEANT NOTHING TO ME...

IT'S POSSIBLE, SOMEHOW, THAT THE TIME FLAW MAY ONLY WORK FOR **ME**! IT MAY NOT RESPOND TO YOUR PRESENCE!

CHARLES, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE HAVING A **RELAPSE**! YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO BED **IMMEDIATELY**!



I DARED NOT FACE THE TRUTH... I DIDN'T WANT TO! BUT THAT NIGHT, LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT...

CHARLES!
CHARLES!

GREAT SCOTT... IT'S **HER**! SHE'S **CALLING** TO ME!



IRRESISTIBLY, HER VOICE DREW ME, ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE SNOW-LADEN MOORS, TO KENNISTON CRAG ITSELF...

ANNE! ANNE! I'M COMING!

HURRY, CHARLES! THEY'RE WAITING FOR US AT THE MANOR!



I GASPED AT HER RADIANT LOVELINESS, MY HEART TOO FULL TO SPEAK...

WE'RE HAVING A GREAT BALL TONIGHT... AND I WANT **YOU** AS MY ESCORT!

DARLING, YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN... BEFORE MY REASON CRUMBLES!



WORDLESSLY, SHE TOOK ME BY THE HAND, LED THE WAY, AND I WAS POWERLESS TO RESIST...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR **CLOTHES**, MY LOVE... IT'S ALL ARRANGED!

NOW I KNOW WHY SHE DOESN'T LEAVE FOOT-PRINTS! THE SNOW IS IN THE **PRESENT**, AND **SHE'S** IN THE PAST... SO THERE'S NO IMPRESS!



THE LILTING STRAINS WAFTED ACROSS THE DARK MOORS AS WE APPROACHED! I COULDN'T THINK CLEARLY NOW ABOUT ANYTHING...

YOU'LL BE INSIDE IN A MOMENT, CHARLES... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SUCH A **GOOD** TIME!

PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T **SEE** WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR... BUT **I'VE GOT TO**!



FOR A MOMENT, THE DAZZLING LIGHTS BLINDED ME, AND THEN...

M-MY CLOTHES! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

OH, CHARLES, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T ASK SO MANY **QUESTIONS**!



THERE IT WAS...AN 18TH-CENTURY BALL ROOM! MY THEORY HAD BEEN RIGHT...I WAS IN THE PAST...I HAD BEEN SLIPPING THROUGH SOME INEXPLICABLE FLAW IN THE FLOW OF TIME...

COME, COME, MY DARLING
...I'M DYING FOR A
WALTZ!



I DIDN'T TRY TO THINK ANY MORE...I DIDN'T WANT TO! IT WAS ALL TOO GAY AND HAPPY, AND I WAS WITH THE GIRL I LOVED! I LOST ALL TRACK OF TIME AS SHE WHIRLED IN MY ARMS...

I LOVE YOU,
DARLING!

AND I LOVE
YOU!



WE DANCED THE DIZZING REELS, KISSED IN A CORNER, VOWED UNDYING LOVE, WHILE THE MUSIC PLAYED ON AND ON! AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...

FIRE!

LISTEN! DID
YOU HEAR
THAT?

DON'T SPOIL
THE FUN,
CHARLES!
HOLD
ME!



WAS IT POSSIBLE? THE ROOM FILLED WITH SMOKE, BUT STILL THE DANCERS WHIRLED ON, OBLIVIOUS TO THE DANGER...

I...I CAN HARDLY
BREATHE! ANNE...
WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT
OF HERE!

STOP
WORRYING,
DARLING...
THIS ALWAYS
HAPPENS! YOU
WON'T EVEN
NOTICE...
AFTER A
WHILE!



IT WAS THEN THAT SOMETHING SEEMED TO SNAP IN MY MIND! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING...ONLY THAT I WAS RUSHING TOWARDS THE COOL OUTER AIR...WHICH I MIGHT NEVER REACH...

GOT TO...
GET OUT...

CHARLES!
COME
BACK!



I BURST THROUGH THE DOOR IN DESPERATION, PLUNGED ONTO THE SNOWY MOORS, WITH HER VOICE ALWAYS BEHIND ME, CALLING...

GOT TO...**ESCAPE!**
MUSTN'T GO BACK...

CHARLES!
CHARLES!

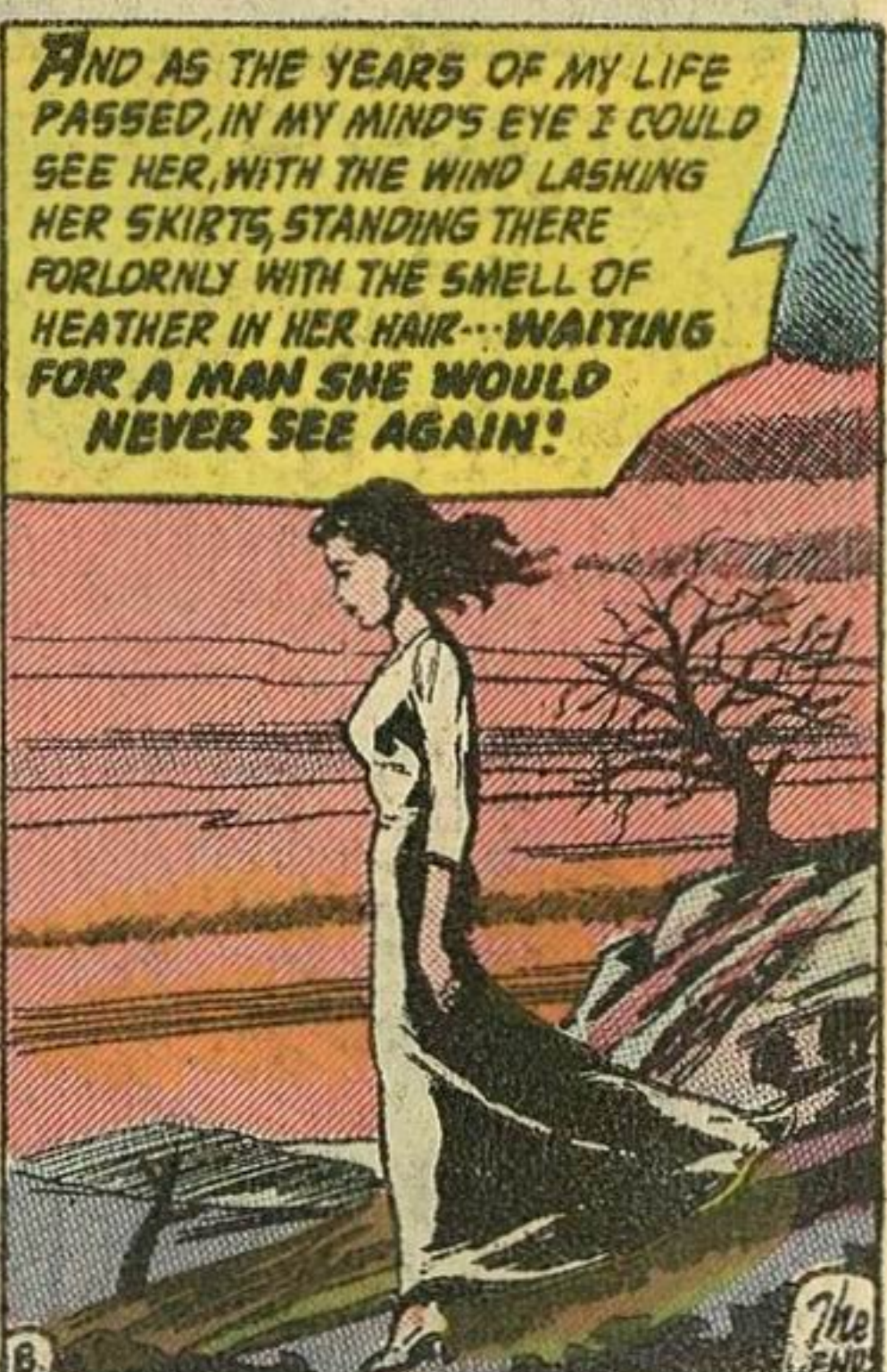


I REMEMBER ONLY LOSING MY WAY, AND COLLAPSING! WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED...

THEY SUMMONED ME AFTER FINDING YOU ON THE MOORS...HALF DEAD! HOW DID YOU BURN YOUR **HAND**, CHARLES?

AT...
THE **BALL!**
I'LL TELL
YOU EVERY-
THING...





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Snake-Zebra Design—Printed Plastic can be used on either side. Gives snappy distinctive dress up appearance. Front or Rear Seat only

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SHOW YOUR FRIEND THE TRICK
PRESS AND SQUIRT FROM HIS
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SHINER
BLACK EYE JOKE!
BY TRYING TO
FOCUS THE TELL
SCOFF THEY GET
A BLACK EYE

SHAPPING CHEWING GUM

When the victim reaches for a stick of gum and the spring snaps WATCH HIM JUMP!

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YOU WILL SURPRISE EVERYBODY LOOKING
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OFFER YOUR FRIEND A CIGAR WHEN HE ACCEPTS, SQUEEZE A SNAKE WILL POP OUT.

ILLUSION BILL FOLDER
BY TURNING THE BILL FOLDER OVER AND OVER SEVERAL MAGIC TRICKS CAN BE DONE BY ANYONE.

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Open and Fan will appear. Turn up side down, and Fan disappears.

RUSH COUPON TODAY! MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Please rush me Giant Package of Imported Funny and Magic Tricks. I am enclosing \$1.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

VOICE *out of* SPACE

HANK MORRIS and Bert Greeley had been friends since childhood. They'd gone to school together, both majored in physical sciences throughout college, continued on to advanced studies and both became brilliant scientists. What more natural, in view of their closeness, than to become associated in research? That's what the two friends did, and their subject was space flight. They worked hard building a rocket which they hoped would be the first to penetrate outer space. Their only relaxation were occasional dates with Elaine Jensen, their lovely laboratory assistant. These dates seemed casual to Bert, but they meant everything to Hank, who, in his quiet, repressed way, was head-over-heels in love with Elaine, but too shy to let the fact become known. But there was nothing he wouldn't do for her...just as there was nothing he wouldn't do for Bert, his closest friend.

Just as soon as their rocket was successfully tested, Hank determined to propose to Elaine. In the meantime, he and Bert worked hard on the rocket, and at last it was completed. And now there was no holding Bert. He wasn't satisfied just to send the rocket up and learn what happened from its recording devices. It was more important, he insisted, to prove whether man could sustain flight in space, and therefore he wanted to pilot the rocket. But Hank knew how dangerous this was, and wanted to wait until protective safety devices could be developed and built into the device. The trouble was that Bert wouldn't wait. To do so would involve the risk of others beating them to their goal. After all, he said, he was willing to take the risk! But here Hank turned adamant. If anybody was going to take the risk, why not him? They drew lots...and Bert won. He'd pilot the rocket on its risky first flight...it was decided!

On the very night before the rocket was to make its test flight, Hank returned to the laboratory for something he had forgotten, and saw something which shook him to the core of his being. Bert and Elaine...in each other's arms! He heard them expressing their love for each other, planning for their future together, and turned away, tears in his eyes. And the next morning, on schedule, the rocket took off with a flaring roar...bound for outer space! And a few hours later, Bert staggered into the laboratory, a large lump adorning his forehead. Elaine leaped to her feet, her face white. "B-Bert!" she gasped. "I...I thought you were in the rocket! What happened?"

"It was Hank!" gritted Bert. "My friend! He wanted the honor of piloting the rocket...so he slugged me and took my place! The low, scheming..." here his voice broke off as another took its place. It came from a mechanical speaker mounted on a complicated wall panel. "Listen!" gasped Elaine. "That's Hank now...reporting from the rocket! It...it's far out in space by now!"

"This is Hank!" said the voice out of space. "This is my last message to you, Bert and Elaine...the two people I care for more than anyone in the world! I'm sorry I had to slug you, Bert...believe me, it wasn't because I wanted the glory! You see, I found out something last night...that you two kids are in love...and I had to do something fast! You'd never listen, Bert, but my calculations indicated that space can't sustain life...and you...you've got to live for Elaine! Be...good to her, boy...and you, Elaine...take care of him! Hot in here...getting...hotter...heart beating faster, faster...can't...breathe...goodbye..."

The voice from the speaker broke off abruptly. It was the last they ever heard from the rocket.

GREAT CIVILIZATIONS AND ANCIENT EMPIRES ARE BURIED IN THE ETERNALLY SHIFTING SANDS OF THE VAST MIDDLE-EASTERN DESERTS! BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT **OTHER** SECRETS LIE BURIED BENEATH THE TIMELESS DUNES... SECRETS TO STAGGER THE IMAGINATION OF MAN? HERE'S THE INCREDIBLE TALE OF PILOT **LLOYD MORGAN**, AND THE PROOF HE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE...

STRANGE GARDEN!



IT HAD STARTED AS A ROUTINE MILITARY FLIGHT FROM CAIRO TO ATHENS, AND NOW...



HE HAD FLOWN THE AREA MANY TIMES, AND WAS QUITE CONFUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF AN OASIS IN THE DISTANCE...



FROM A DISTANCE IT HAD LOOKED LIKE AN **ORDINARY** SPOT, BUT AS HE DREW CLOSE...



FANTASTIC FLOWERS DAZZLED HIS EYES, AND SUBTLE PERFUMES MADE HIS SENSES REEL...

IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE I'VE EVER SEEN! MAYBE I'M IMAGINING ALL THIS... MAYBE I NEVER GOT OUT OF THE PLANE ALIVE... **MAYBE I'M DEAD!**



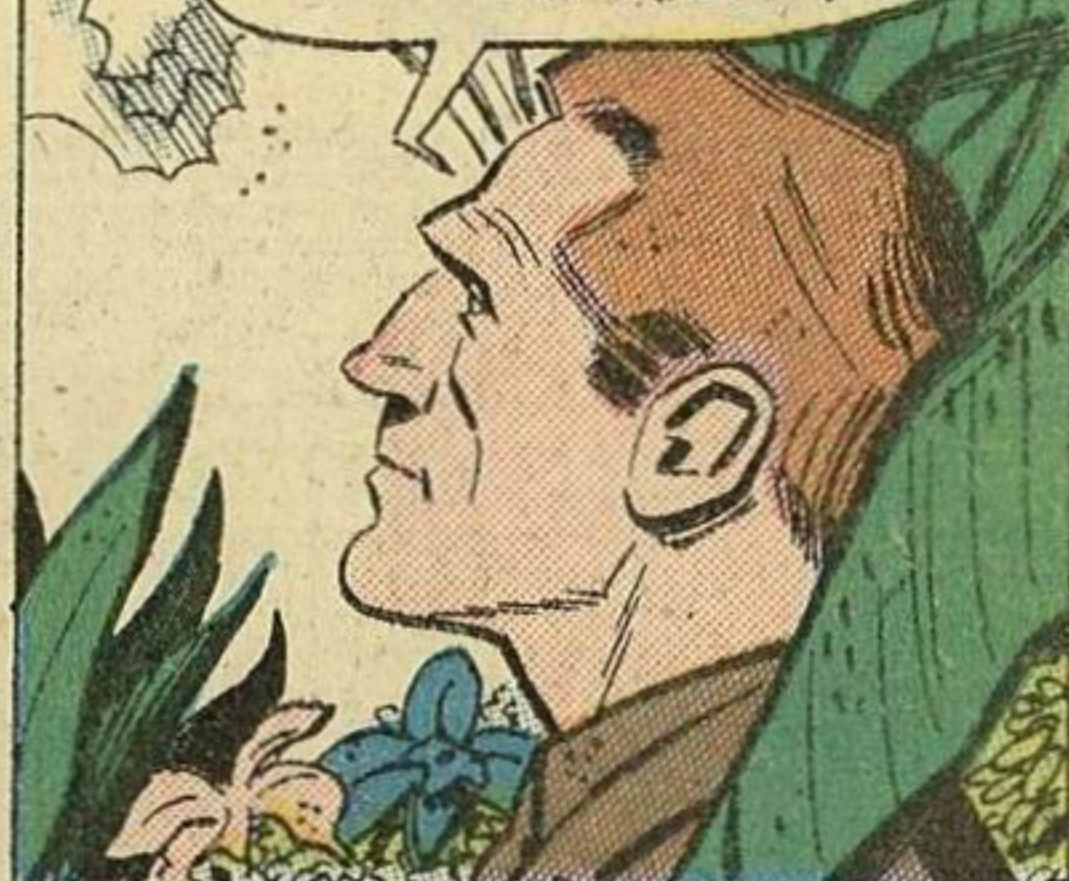
HE BENT OVER A WONDERFULLY CLEAR POOL AND SAW HIS IMAGE REFLECTED LIKE A MIRROR! THE WATER WAS COOL AND REFRESHING... MAGICALLY DELICIOUS...

FUNNY, I ALWAYS IMAGINED **PARADISE** WOULD BE LIKE THIS!



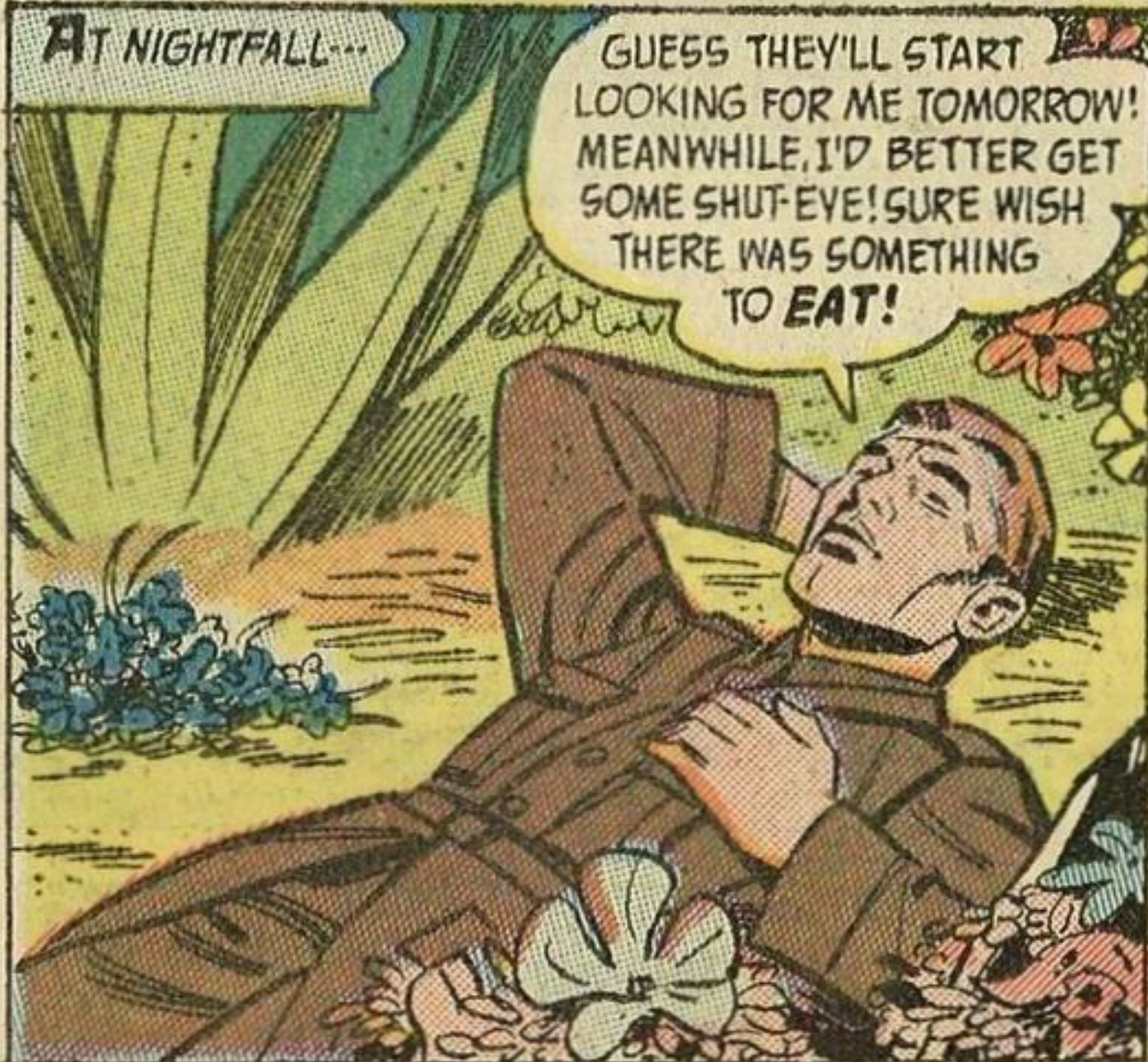
IT WAS THEN HE NOTICED THAT APART FROM THE VEGETATION, THERE WAS NO LIFE OF ANY KIND ABOUT! NOTHING MOVED, THERE WAS NOT EVEN THE HUM OF AN INSECT...

EVERYTHING'S STRANGE ABOUT THIS PLACE! WELL, AT LEAST I CAN WATCH FOR SEARCH PLANES FROM HERE! BETTER THAN BAKING OUT ON THE DESERT!



AT NIGHTFALL...

GUESS THEY'LL START LOOKING FOR ME TOMORROW! MEANWHILE, I'D BETTER GET SOME SHUT-EYE! SURE WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING TO **EAT!**



UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SOUNDNESS OF HIS SLEEP WAS REMARKABLE! WHEN HE AWOKE NEXT MORNING...

NEVER SLEPT BETTER IN MY LIFE! WITH ALL THIS **GROWTH** AROUND, THERE MUST BE **SOMETHING** EDIBLE!



HE COMMENCED TO EXPLORE THE OASIS SYSTEMATICALLY! EVERY STEP DISCLOSED NEW BEAUTIES, UNTIL AT LAST...

WHAT KIND OF TREE IS **THAT?** IT SEEMS TO BE BEARING **APPLES!**



HUNGRILY HE PLUCKED ONE OF THE FRUITS OFF A BRANCH...

PERFECT! THE FINEST APPLE I EVER TASTED! AT LEAST NOW I WON'T **STARVE** TO DEATH!



HIS HUNGER ABATED, LLOYD FELT ANXIOUS TO RID HIMSELF OF THE DESERT DUST...

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THOSE GUYS CAN TAKE THEIR TIME FINDING ME! I NEVER FELT **HAPPIER** IN MY LIFE!



STRANGELY, THOUGH HE HAD CRASHED ON A REGULAR AIR ROUTE, HE HEARD NOT A SINGLE PLANE PASS IN THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS! NOR WAS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT RECONNAISSANCE PLANES HAD BEEN SENT FOR HIM--

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THEY KNOW I'M MISSING BY NOW! WHY AREN'T THEY LOOKING FOR ME?



ANOTHER DAY PASSED, AND ANOTHER--AND FINALLY A WEEK WAS GONE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT--BUT SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR HAS HAPPENED! SOMEHOW I KNOW THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME! I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT BACK TO CIVILIZATION ON FOOT!



HE WAITED TWO MORE DAYS BEFORE ATTEMPTING THE JOURNEY--

THE ONLY THING I'LL HAVE TO EAT ARE THESE APPLES! THINK I'LL TAKE BACK A LEAF AND FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF APPLE TREE THIS IS! I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE GROWING THIS FRUIT--IT'S GREAT!



HE STOPPED AT THE WRECKAGE OF HIS PLANE TO LEAVE A WRITTEN MESSAGE, IN CASE HELP CAME WHEN HE WAS GONE, AND THERE HE MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY!

FOOTPRINTS! BUT HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE? IF A CARAVAN HAD PASSED THEY'D HAVE HEADED FOR THE OASIS! BESIDES, IF IT'D BEEN A CARAVAN, THERE'D BE CAMEL TRACKS!



THE SUN BLAZED PITILESSLY, AND HIS STRENGTH EBBED QUICKLY! FOR THREE DAYS HE STAGGERED ON! HE'D EATEN THE LAST OF THE APPLES, AND HIS BODY CRIED OUT FOR FOOD AND WATER--

I--I WAS A FOOL TO TRY THIS! I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN THE OASIS--HELP WOULD HAVE COME EVENTUALLY!



HE WAS AT THE END OF HIS STRENGTH WHEN--

BY THE PROPHET! SOME FOOL IS BRAVING THE DESERT ON FOOT!



IN AN ARAB VILLAGE ON THE EDGE OF THE DESERT--

HE COLLAPSED WHEN I REACHED HIM! I THINK IT IS AN AMERICAN!

BY HIS GARB I WARRANT HE IS A FLYER! HE MUST BE TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL!



WHEN LLOYD REVIVED--

HE NEEDS ONLY REST FOR A DAY OR TWO! AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ARE SENDING A PLANE FOR HIM!

GREAT SCOTT! HE'S SPEAKING IN ARABIC--AND SOMEHOW, I CAN UNDERSTAND EVERY WORD HE SAYS!

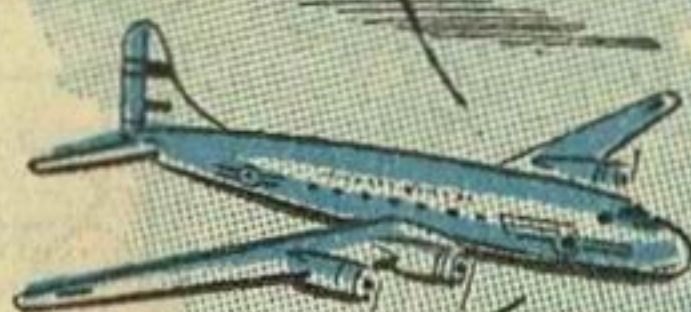


48 HOURS LATER, FLYING BACK TO AN AMERICAN BASE, LLOYD GOT HIS SECOND JOLT...

WE ALL FIGURED YOU WERE DEAD FOR **SURE!** AFTER WE FOUND THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR PLANE AND NO SIGN OF YOU FOR OVER A **WEEK...**

WH-A-AT? BUT YOU **COULDN'T** HAVE SPOTTED MY PLANE! I WOULD'VE HEARD YOUR MOTORS! I'D'VE COME RUNNING OUT OF THE **OASIS!**

WHAT OASIS? THERE WAS NOTHING AROUND BUT DESERT FOR **MILES AND MILES!**



BUT THERE **WAS** AN OASIS...**RIGHT NEAR BY!**

AT THE AIRBASE, LLOYD TOLD HIS WHOLE STORY TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER...

IT WAS ALL A **HALLUCINATION**. MORGAN... QUITE COMMON IN THE DESERT!

IF THAT'S ALL IT WAS, WHAT KEPT ME **ALIVE** FOR MORE THAN A WEEK? AND WHERE DID I GET THIS **LEAF**... IF NOT OFF THE TREE I TOLD YOU ABOUT?



WHILE THE LEAF WAS ANALYZED BY EXPERTS, LLOYD WAS EXAMINED BY THE BASE PSYCHIATRIST...

AND YOU SAY YOU UNDERSTOOD **ARABIC**...**PERFECTLY**...EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT BEFORE? MIND TAKING SOME **TESTS?**

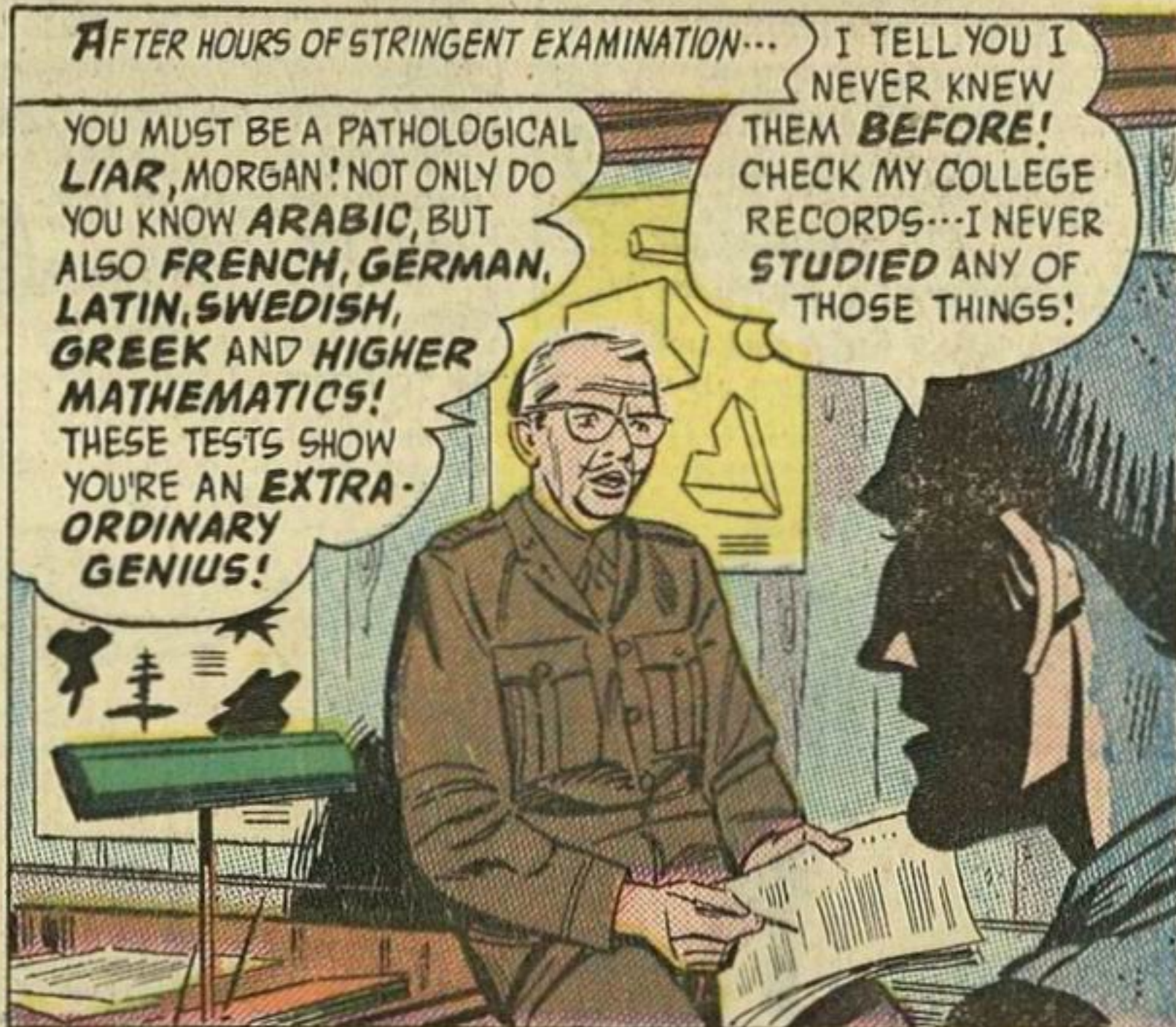
NOT AT ALL, SIR!



AFTER HOURS OF STRINGENT EXAMINATION...

YOU MUST BE A PATHOLOGICAL **LIAR**, MORGAN! NOT ONLY DO YOU KNOW **ARABIC**, BUT ALSO **FRENCH, GERMAN, LATIN, SWEDISH, GREEK** AND **HIGHER MATHEMATICS!** THESE TESTS SHOW YOU'RE AN **EXTRA-ORDINARY GENIUS!**

I TELL YOU I NEVER KNEW THEM **BEFORE!** CHECK MY COLLEGE RECORDS...I NEVER **STUDIED** ANY OF THOSE THINGS!



THE REPORT FROM THE BOTANY LAB WAS EVEN MORE STARTLING...

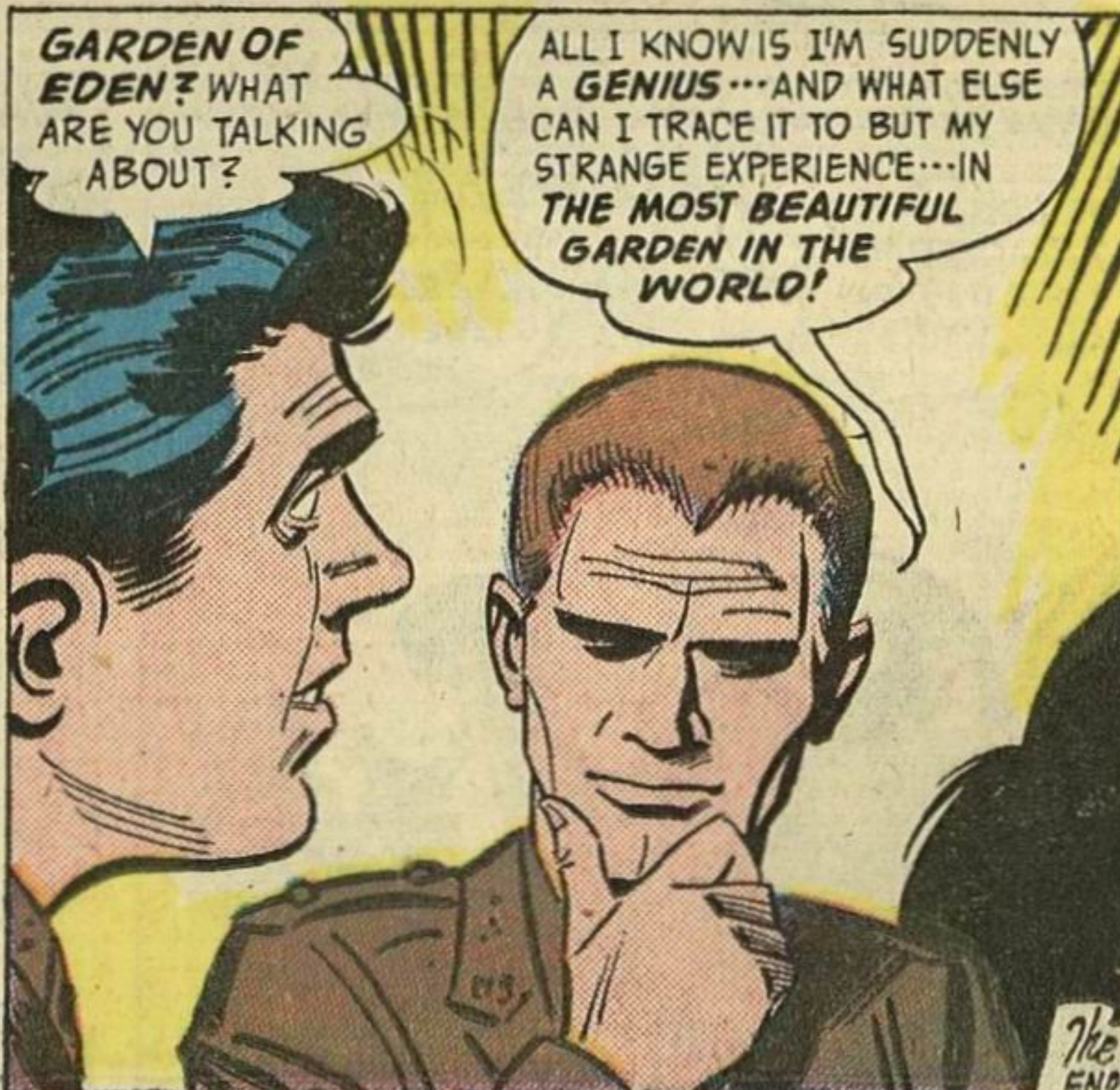
THIS LEAF HAS **NEVER BEEN CLASSIFIED!** SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF **FRUIT TREE** LEAF... BUT OF AN **EXTREMELY ANCIENT TYPE!**

HOW ANCIENT? OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN IN THE **GARDEN OF EDEN?**



GARDEN OF EDEN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ALL I KNOW IS I'M SUDDENLY A **GENIUS**...AND WHAT ELSE CAN I TRACE IT TO BUT MY STRANGE EXPERIENCE...IN THE **MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN IN THE WORLD!**



The END!

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

THROUGH THESE pages pass the most wonderful people in the world...the loyal fans and faithful readers of "Forbidden Worlds"! And at this time, we'd like to thank you, sincerely, for the wonderful cooperation which you're affording us. Specifically, we're referring to your letters, which reflect the interest you possess in this magazine. You've complimented us, very frequently, on what we're doing, and sent along bouquets on our stories and illustration. Naturally, we love this...praise is a wonderful and warming

thing. But we've received our share of brickbats, too, from folks who might not have liked something which we carried. We welcome censure, too, so long as it's sincere. Because only through knowing the likes and dislikes of readers can we build a fine magazine. We think we've done this in "Forbidden Worlds"...and we look forward to your letter! Remember the address...The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N.Y. And now...take over, readers! Remember that this page is your sounding board, so let's go!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been a reader of 'Forbidden Worlds' for a long time, because your stories and art work are great! Ogden Whitney draws some of the best covers and stories I've ever seen. I can't tell you your mistakes, because there are none, except for one thing...what happened to 'Truevision'? I think it was one of the neatest ideas since 3-dimensional movies! Please answer this in your column!

...Brian Finnerty, New York, N. Y."

"Truevision" was a noble experiment, wasn't it? We undertook it as an additional reader service, and it did give a real 3-D effect...but the black coloring it required smeared on occasion, and we had to discontinue it.

"Dear Editor:-

I'm a faithful reader of 'Forbidden Worlds' and have enjoyed it for a number of years. It's still my favorite comic around. The story I liked best in recent issues was 'Journey Into Time'. But please...let's have one story with a happy ending!

...Ronald Lenny, Edmonton, Canada"

Come, come, Ron...we're not that mournful! We have lots of stories that end happily. But we're not afraid to feature a sad conclusion if that's the way the big ball bounces!

"Dear Editor:-

Enclosed is \$1.20 for a subscription to 'Forbidden Worlds'. This magazine is a favorite with my husband and therefore I am including this subscription as one of his birthday presents. A year-long remembrance from this fascinating comic book will be one of his treasured gifts this year. I might also add that I, too, enjoy the exciting reading this magazine offers.

...Mrs. Betty L. Mills, Winthrop, Mass."

Thanks a lot, Mrs. Mills. Yours is a heart-warming letter, and we'll continue to do our best to justify your kind words!

"Dear Editor:-

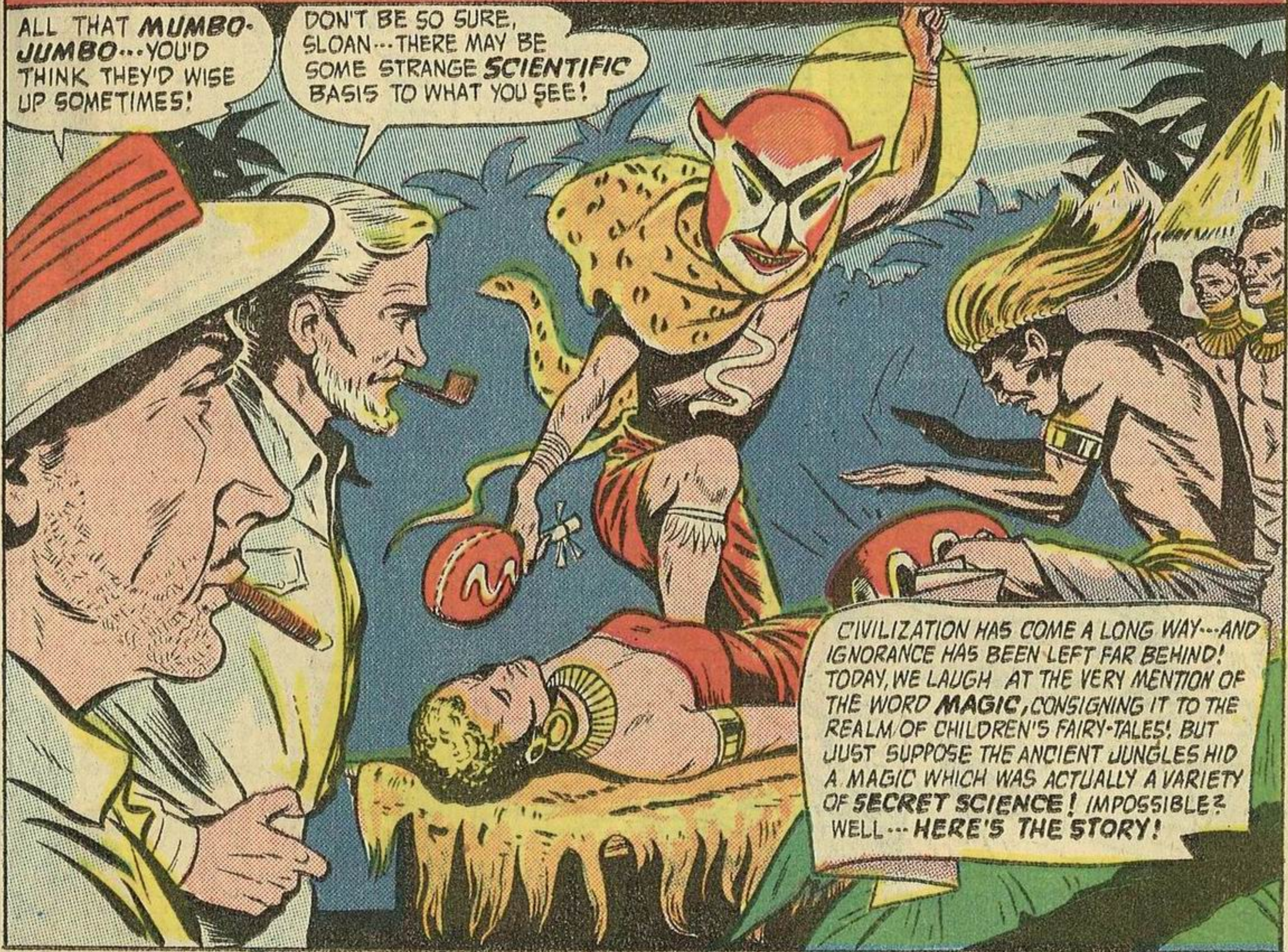
Ever since I have been able to read, I have shunned 'horror books' of all kinds. Recently, however, my younger sister purchased 'Forbidden Worlds' and I have never enjoyed such good, clean, imaginative stories in my life. I have come to the conclusion that whoever wrote 'Pussycat On The Dog Star' is very clever. You also have a very good artist that drew 'The Hypnotic Trance'. All your stories are simply tops, and I hope you continue your record...you have a very good comic book! Oh, by the way, I wanted to mention that I thought the 'Pussycat' story was very hilarious. An avid reader...

...Sandra Banks, San Angelo, Texas."

Congo Episode!

ALL THAT **MUMBO-JUMBO**... YOU'D THINK THEY'D WISE UP SOMETIMES!

DON'T BE SO SURE, SLOAN... THERE MAY BE SOME STRANGE **SCIENTIFIC** BASIS TO WHAT YOU SEE!



CIVILIZATION HAS COME A LONG WAY... AND IGNORANCE HAS BEEN LEFT FAR BEHIND! TODAY, WE LAUGH AT THE VERY MENTION OF THE WORD **MAGIC**, CONSIGNING IT TO THE REALM OF CHILDREN'S FAIRY-TALES! BUT JUST SUPPOSE THE ANCIENT JUNGLES HID A MAGIC WHICH WAS ACTUALLY A VARIETY OF **SECRET SCIENCE**! IMPOSSIBLE? WELL... HERE'S THE STORY!

IN THE HOME OF PROF. ALFRED CARLETON, DISTINGUISHED ANTHROPOLOGIST...

I INTEND TO REACH THE **UPPER CONGO** IN MY NEXT EXPEDITION... AND STUDY THE **DRAHILI** TRIBE **MINUTELY**!



IF ANY MAN CAN DO IT, CARLETON... **YOU** CAN!

IT WAS DIFFICULT FINDING A PHOTOGRAPHER WILLING TO ACCOMPANY THE EXPEDITION, BUT FINALLY...

GLAD YOU'RE COMING ALONG, SLOAN! IT'LL BE AN ADVENTURE FOR A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU!

ADVENTURE, **BUNK**! I'D NEVER HAVE TAKEN THIS JOB IF I WASN'T DOWN TO MY LAST TEN BUCKS!



SLOAN'S MOOD GREW EVEN BLACKER AS THE JOURNEY'S DISCOMFORTS INCREASED...



MOSQUITOES,
HEAT, VERMIN...
YOU CAN **KEEP**
AFRICA!

WEEKS OF ARDUOUS TRAVEL PASSED, AND THE END WAS NOT YET IN SIGHT...

WHERE **ARE**
THOSE BLASTED
DRAHILIS?

OVER A HUNDRED
MILES AWAY
YET... OVER
THOSE MOUNTAINS!
NOT MANY WHITE
MEN HAVE EVER
SEEN WHAT
WE'LL SEE!



PROPHETIC WORDS! HIGHER, EVER HIGHER INTO THE HILLS THEY WENT... UNTIL AT LAST...



MEB'WENNO
... **TAI!**

RAYYO!

NEXT
MOMENT,
EAR-PIERCING
CRIES
ROARED
OUT OF
THE HILLS...



DON'T FIRE,
YOU FOOL! LET
ME HANDLE
THIS!

WE COME AS **FRIENDS!**
I CARRY MANY GIFTS FOR
THE GREAT DRAHILIS! I
MUST SPEAK TO YOUR
CHIEF!

COME!



IN THE NATIVE VILLAGE...

WE ARE **PEACEFUL** MEN,
GREAT CHIEF! THESE GIFTS
SHALL MAKE US BROTHERS!



THE DRAHILI IS SAVAGE IN
WAR, LOYAL IN PEACE! YOUR
GIFTS ARE GOOD, AND I
BID YOU WELCOME! BUT **WHY**
ARE YOU
HERE?

IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR CARLETON TO EXPLAIN, BUT FINALLY...

THERE CAN BE
NO HARM IN **WATCH-**
ING US... YOU MAY
STAY!

THAT NECKLACE THE
CHIEF IS WEARING... IT
MUST BE WORTH A
FORTUNE!



AFTER THE EQUIPMENT WAS UNLOADED...

HAVE YOU NOTICED ALL THE JEWELS AND **GOLD** THESE PEOPLE WEAR? THE TRIBE MUST BE WORTH **MILLIONS!** BETTER FORGET ABOUT THAT, SLOAN! OFFEND THE CHIEF IN ANY WAY, AND THEY'D MAKE SHORT WORK OF US!



FOR WEEKS CARLETON MADE CAREFUL NOTES ON DRAHILI LIFE, WHILE SLOAN TOOK PICTURES OF NATIVE RITUALS...

AT A BIG FEAST LIKE THIS, EVERYBODY GETS OUT THEIR **GOOD** JEWELRY! GOSH, I'VE BEEN POOR ALL MY LIFE... AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW ITS **VALUE!**



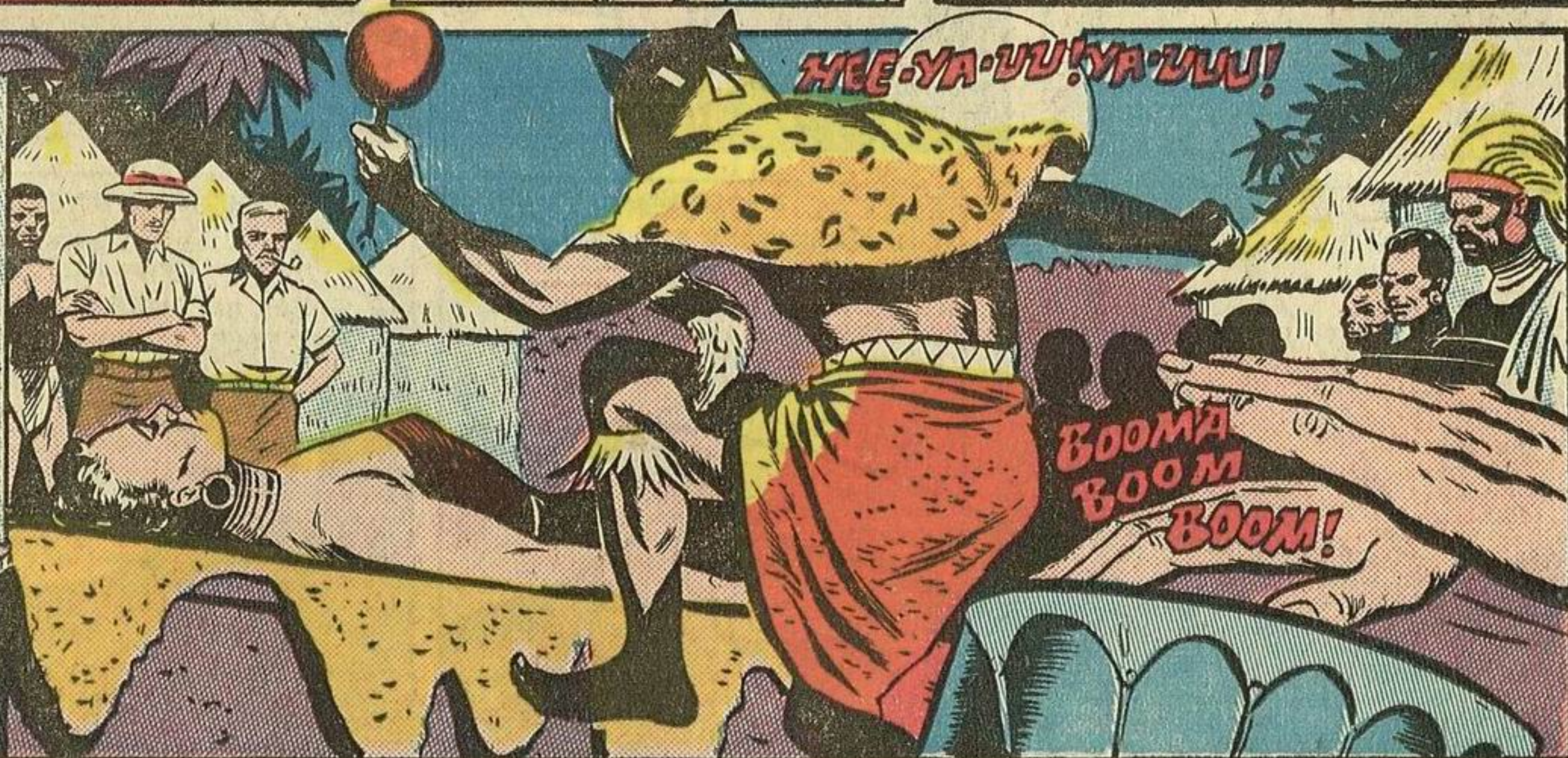
THE WORK WENT FORWARD WITHOUT INCIDENT, UNTIL THE CHIEF'S WIFE FELL ILL...

SO NOW THE WITCH DOCTOR'S GETTING INTO THE ACT, EH? JUST HOW BAD IS SHE, PROFESSOR?

I EXAMINED HER AN HOUR AGO! IT MUST BE BAD... SHE'S TOTALLY **PARALYZED!**



BUT THAT NIGHT WITNESSED A SAVAGE RITE, AS THE WITCH DOCTOR USED ALL HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE TO SAVE THE STRICKEN WOMAN...



FAT LOT OF GOOD HE'S DOING! WHAT A RACKET!

AND YET THE NATIVES HAVE NEVER LOST FAITH IN THESE RITUALS! IT MAKES YOU... **WONDER!**



SHORTLY AFTER DAWN...

HEAR ME, OH DRAHILIS! THE WIFE OF THE CHIEF MOVES HER LIMBS... SHE IS WELL AGAIN!

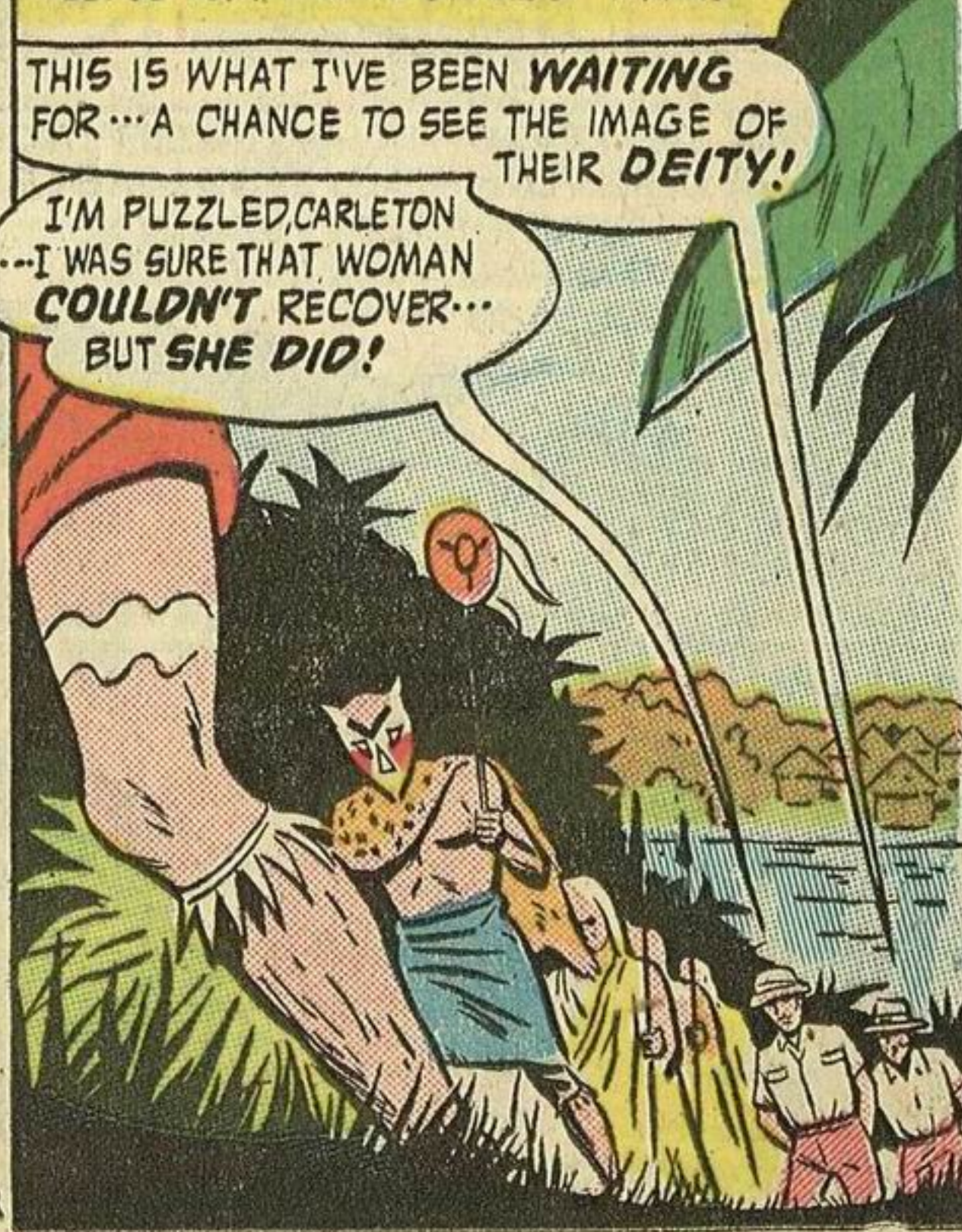
WELL, I'LL BE...!

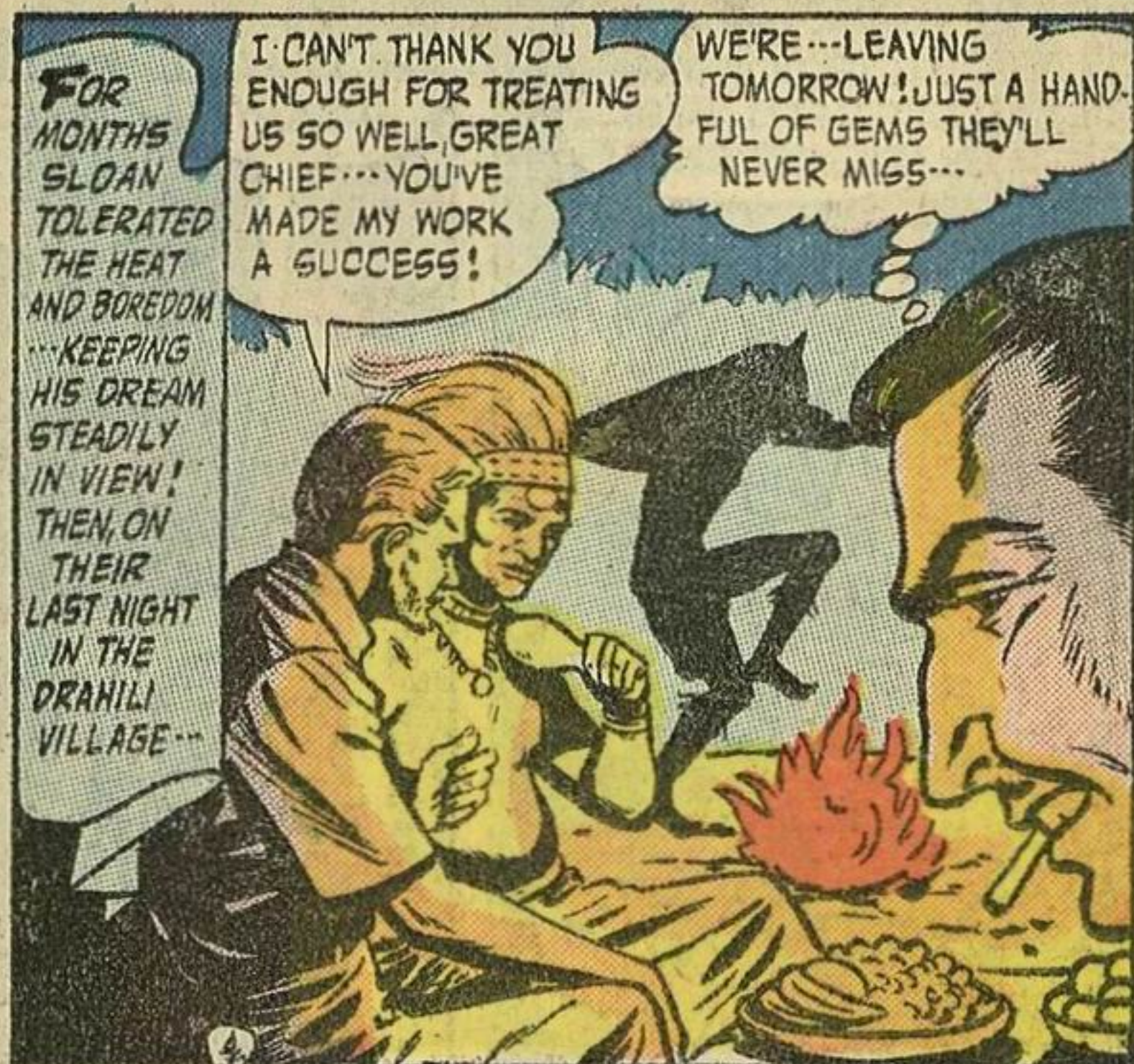
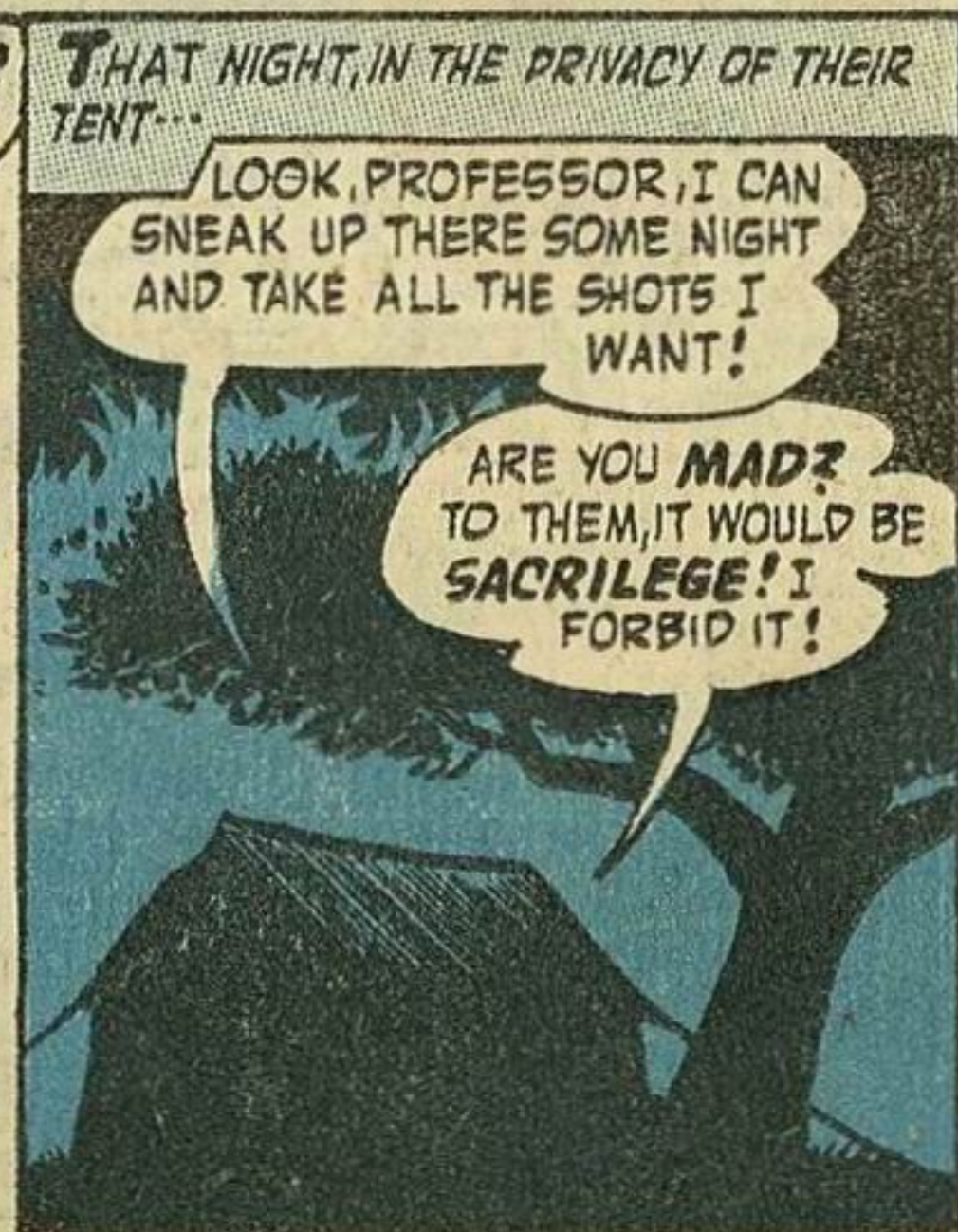


IN CELEBRATION, THE WHOLE TRIBE LEFT THE VILLAGE NEXT DAY TO OFFER UP THANKS...

THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN **WAITING** FOR... A CHANCE TO SEE THE IMAGE OF THEIR **DEITY!**

I'M PUZZLED, CARLETON... I WAS SURE THAT WOMAN **COULDN'T** RECOVER... BUT SHE DID!





LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT, SLOAN CREPT STEALTHILY OUT OF THE VILLAGE...

IT...IT ISN'T AS IF I'M TAKING ANYTHING THEY **NEED!** THEY'VE GOT PLENTY...IT'S VALUELESS TO THEM...

NO GUARDS PROFANED THE SACRED GROUND, WHICH THE PEOPLE BELIEVED WAS PROTECTED BY THE GREAT SPIRIT ITSELF...

LION'S BODY AND A CROCODILE'S HEAD! AND THAT'S THEIR IDOL... I'M GETTING PICTURES **NOW!**

I...I'LL JUST TAKE A **FEW** OF THESE BAUBLES! THEY'LL NEVER KNOW THEY'RE GONE!

NEXT MORNING, THE CHIEF HIMSELF ACCOMPANIED THE EXPEDITION PART OF THE WAY...

WE PART HERE! FAREWELL, WHITE MEN...YOUR WAY LIES THERE!

THANKS AGAIN, CHIEF!

ABOARD A SHIP IN CAPE TOWN...

GLAD TO SEE YOU IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS, SLOAN! I TRUST YOU FOUND YOUR EXPERIENCES **VALUABLE?**

VERY VALUABLE, PROFESSOR!

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, A VIOLENT PLAGUE STRUCK THE DRAHILI VILLAGE...

IT IS THE **WHITE DEATH!** THE TENTH IN THREE DAYS!

WE MUST GO TO THE GREAT SPIRIT...AND PRAY FOR HELP!

ONCE MORE INSIDE THE CAVE, THE SACRILEGE WAS DISCOVERED...

SACRED GEMS HAVE BEEN STOLEN! THE WHITE MEN...**THEY** DID IT!

ONE WHITE MAN...I SAW HOW HE COVETED OUR JEWELS! BUT WE HAVE THE MEANS TO MAKE HIM **PAY!**



MY MESSAGE SHALL COVER THE MILES AND SEEK HIM OUT...AND THE GUILTY WILL **REPENT!**



MEANWHILE, NEARING NEW YORK... YOUR PICTURES WILL MAKE YOUR REPUTATION, SLOAN! OTHER EXPEDITIONS WILL BE BEGGING FOR YOUR SERVICES!

NOT INTERESTED! I JUST HOPE THOSE SHOTS OF THE IDOL CAME OUT...THE LIGHT WASN'T SO HOT IN THE CAVE!



YOU...YOU MEAN YOU **TOOK** THOSE PICTURES...EVEN THOUGH IT WAS **FORBIDDEN?** YOU IDIOT... YOU RISKED OUR LIVES!

WHY COMPLAIN? WE'RE **SAFE**, AREN'T WE? I'M NOT WORRIED...NOTHING CAN HARM ME **NOW!**



BUT WE GAVE OUR **WORD!** WHEN THE DRAHILIS FIND OUT ABOUT IT, IT WILL GIVE OTHER EXPEDITIONS A BAD NAME ALL OVER AFRICA!

NONSENSE! HOW WILL THEY EVER FIND OUT?



UNTIL THE SHIP DOCKED, NOT ANOTHER WORD WAS SPOKEN BETWEEN THEM...

SLOAN, YOUR WRONGDOING WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU...A MAN LIKE YOU ALWAYS **PAYS!**

IF...IF HE ONLY KNEW THE **REST** OF IT!



CARRYING A FORTUNE IN JEWELS IN HIS SUITCASE, SLOAN SPARED NO EXPENSE...

OUR FINEST SUITE? YES **SIR**, MR. SLOAN!



IT TOOK A FEW DAYS TO DEVELOP ALL THE FILM HE HAD SHOT, AND HE WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE HOW IT HAD ALL COME OUT...

MEMENTOS OF AFRICA...**HA-HA!** NEVER FIGURED THE EXPEDITION WOULD BE SO **GOOD** TO ME!

HMM, NOT BAD! A LITTLE DARK ON THE EXPOSURE... BUT NOT BAD!



AT THAT MOMENT, A STRANGE RITUAL CONTINUED IN DARKEST AFRICA...

I CONCENTRATE... **CONCENTRATE**, BY THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE HANDED DOWN BY MY FORBEARS! IN MY MIND'S EYE I SEE THE FACE OF THE ENEMY WHO HAS WRONGED US, AND THE POWER OF MY THOUGHTS WINGS TOWARD HIM...



AS SLOAN WATCHED, THE FOG OF ILLUSION ENTERED HIS MIND, AND...

IT... IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S **MOVING**... **LOOKING AT ME!** WHY CAN'T I... THINK STRAIGHT...?



SUDDENLY IT WAS AS IF HE WERE BACK IN THE JUNGLE... CRINGING BEFORE THE PEOPLE HE HAD WRONGED...



I'M GUILTY... **GUILTY!** PLEASE... MERCY...

OUTSIDE, THE HOTEL DETECTIVE WAS MAKING HIS ROUNDS...

OH-OH... SOUNDS LIKE **TROUBLE!**



IT TOOK A FEW SECONDS TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR, AND ONCE INSIDE...

HE'S... **UNCONSCIOUS!** BETTER GET A DOCTOR!



THE DOCTOR SUMMONED PROFESSOR CARLETON TO GIVE WHAT INFORMATION HE COULD...

HE'S SUFFERED FROM THIS STRANGE PARALYSIS FOR A WEEK... BUT HE'S COMING OUT OF IT! BUT HIS BABBLINGS ABOUT DRAHILI JEWELS, AND BEING STRUCK DOWN BY SOME MYSTERIOUS FORCE...

FROM WHAT I NOW DEDUCE, IT MAY BE THE SAME FORCE THEY USE FOR **HEALING**... SOME SCIENTIFIC SECRET WHEREBY **HYPNOTIC WAVES** CAN ACTUALLY BE PROJECTED INTO A PERSON'S MIND!



YES, SLOAN RECOVERED... AND HIS FIRST ACT WAS TO...

WELL, HERE GO THOSE JEWELS... TO A CONGO TRADER WHO'LL GET 'EM BACK TO THE DRAHILI! THERE ARE FUNNY THINGS IN THIS WORLD OF OURS... **AND I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON!**



THE END

Veta, MY DARK STAR!



THE STAR...
SHE'S SHINING
...SO BRIGHTLY!
WH-WHAT'S SHE
UP TO NOW?

LOOK!
IT'S A...
**TIDAL
WAVE!**

R-ROAR!

LONG BEFORE THE DAWN OF
CIVILIZATION, EARLY MAN WAS
PEERING INTO THE DARK MYSTERY
OF THE HEAVENS...AND WONDERING!
DID THE VAST, WHIRLING CON-
STELLATIONS CONTROL HIS
FATE? COULD DESTINY BE
READ IN THE STRANGE
MOVEMENTS OF THE BURNING
STARS? MODERN MAN STILL
WONDERS...AND BROODS...
AND SOMETIMES, FEELS THE
HAND OF FEAR...

THE RESIDENCE OF DR. ALONZO SPADE, THE NOTED
ASTROLOGIST...

I FEEL LIKE AN
IDIOT COMING
HERE! AN ASTROLOGIST
CAN'T **POSSIBLY**
HELP ME...AND
YET...

AND YET YOU
ARE HERE! COME,
COME, MR. FOSTER
... WHAT'S ON YOUR
MIND?

WELL...IT HAPPENS
THAT THIS IS MY **BIRTHDAY**
...AND I'VE ALWAYS HAD VERY
BAD **LUCK** ON MY
BIRTHDAYS! FRANKLY,
I'M **SCARED!**

I SEE
...GO
ON!

"I WAS BORN ON AUGUST 29TH, 1926," SAID ROBERT FOSTER, "ON A MOUNTAINTOP FARM! I WAS ONLY A FEW MINUTES OLD WHEN..."



IT'S... A BOY, JOHN... I'M SO HAPPY! BUT... WHAT'S THAT STRANGE LIGHT?

I... I DON'T KNOW! THE WHOLE ROOM IS FLOODED WITH IT!

"I HEARD MUCH ABOUT THAT WEIRD, COLD-BLUE RADIANCE WHILE GROWING UP... AND THEN, ON MY FIFTH BIRTHDAY, WHILE HUNTING FOR BIRDS' NESTS ON A CLIFF OVERLOOKING A LAKE..."



THERE'S ONE DOWN THERE! IF ONLY I CAN... **OH! I'M FALLING!**

"IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL OVER FOR ME THEN, HAD NOT A FISHERMAN HAPPENED TO BE JUST AT THE SPOT..."



EASY THERE, LAD... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!

"SO IT SEEMED THAT MY BIRTHDAY HAD ONLY BROUGHT ME BAD LUCK... WHICH WAS ALMOST FATAL! SEVERAL YEARS LATER, WHILE WE WERE USING CANDLES AT HOME BECAUSE OF POWER FAILURE..."



COME AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, BOBBY... WE'RE READY TO CUT YOUR CAKE!

BOBBY! LOOK OUT! YOU'RE SETTING FIRE TO THE CURTAINS!

"THE OLD HOUSE WAS A MASS OF FLAME WITHIN A MATTER OF MOMENTS... WE WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES..."



WE'RE... WIPED OUT! WE'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT!

AUGUST 29TH... MY BIRTHDAY! I'LL HATE THIS DATE AS LONG AS I LIVE!

AND THEN THERE WAS AUGUST 29TH, 1948... WHEN I WAS NEARLY KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT! I'VE BECOME **SUPERSTITIOUS** ABOUT IT... AND SOME OF MY FRIENDS ADVISED ME TO SEE **YOU**... AN **ASTROLOGER!**

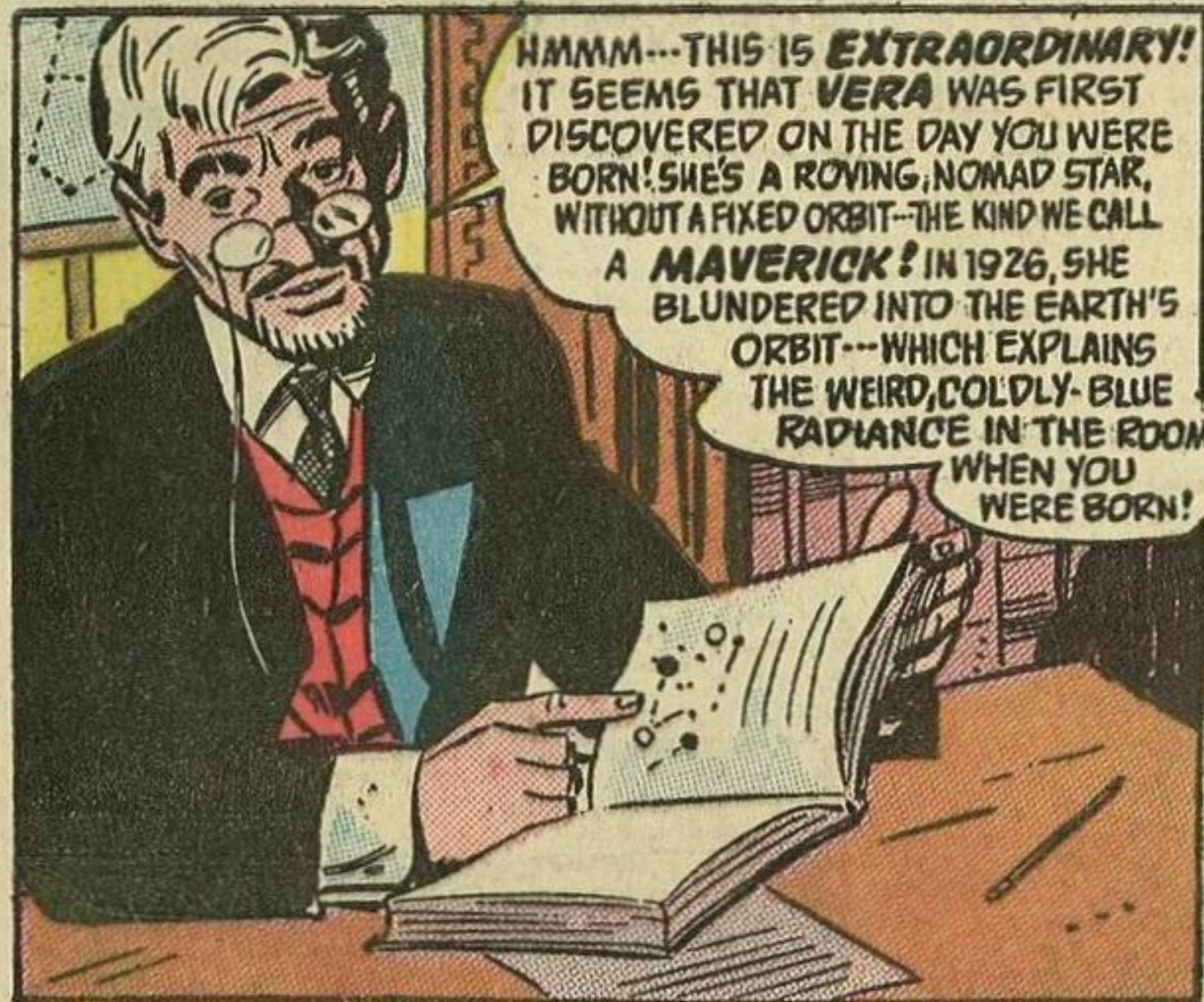


I SEE... AND **THIS** HAPPENS TO BE YOUR BIRTHDAY AGAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT! I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS **BOUND** TO OVER-TAKE ME!

YOU WERE BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF **VERA**, A BALEFUL, DARK STAR... BUT LET'S SEE WHAT **ELSE** WE CAN FIND OUT!





HMMM...THIS IS **EXTRAORDINARY!** IT SEEMS THAT **VERA** WAS FIRST DISCOVERED ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN! SHE'S A ROVING, NOMAD STAR, WITHOUT A FIXED ORBIT--THE KIND WE CALL A **MAVERICK!** IN 1926, SHE BLUNDERED INTO THE EARTH'S ORBIT--WHICH EXPLAINS THE WEIRD, COLDLY-BLUE RADIANCE IN THE ROOM WHEN YOU WERE BORN!



VERA IS ALWAYS CLOSEST TO THE EARTH ON AUGUST 29TH--WHICH IS THE REASON YOU'VE HAD SO MUCH BAD LUCK ON THAT DATE!

I CAN'T SWALLOW **THAT!** IT'S MEDIEVAL, UNSCIENTIFIC!



I CAN'T CONTROL YOUR BELIEF--BUT PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE DARK STAR THROUGH MY TELESCOPE!

I CERTAINLY **WOULD!**

THEY MOUNTED THE RAISED PLATFORM, AND WHEN ROBERT PUT HIS EYE TO THE OCULAR--



IT...IT SEEMS TO BE **SWOOPING DOWN!**



N-NO! IT'S GOING TO HIT ME!

WATCH OUT!



GREAT SCOTT!

THUD!



THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! BUT IT LOOKS AS IF **VERA** IS CONTINUING HER RECORD FOR DEALING OUT **BAD LUCK** FOR YOU!

IT...IT'S JUST **COINCIDENCE!** I WAS A FOOL TO COME HERE--I **SCARED** MYSELF INTO FALLING OFF THAT PLATFORM!

HE COULD HARDLY WAIT TO GET AWAY...

BUT I THINK WE SHOULD **INVESTIGATE** ALL THIS! THE CASE IS HIGHLY INTERESTING!

SORRY, BUT I'VE HAD **ENOUGH!** THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!



A YEAR PASSED, AND DR. SPADE HEARD NO MORE OF HIM! ONE DAY HE READ IN AN ASTRONOMICAL JOURNAL THAT THE STAR **VERA** WAS ACTING UP AGAIN... THAT ON AUGUST 29TH IT WOULD APPROACH NEARER TO THE EARTH THAN EVER BEFORE...

WONDER WHAT BECAME OF THAT FOSTER CHAP? I'M CONVINCED THERE'S **MORE** IN STORE FOR HIM... AND I'D LIKE TO **OBSERVE** THE EVENT!



CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER HIS SPECULATIONS WOULD PROVE CORRECT, DR. SPADE MADE SURE TO CALL ON ROBERT WHEN AUGUST 29TH ROLLED AROUND! AT THE LATTER'S BEACHSIDE COTTAGE...

OH, I'VE PUT ALL THAT NONSENSE ABOUT **VERA** FROM MY MIND, DOCTOR! YOUR THEORY IS **INFANTILE!**

PERHAPS... AND PERHAPS **NOT!** STRANGE, THE LIGHT IN THE ROOM SEEMS TO BE **CHANGING!**



IN AN INSTANT, AN ODD, COLDLY-BLUE LIGHT HAD SUFFUSED THE ROOM... BATHING THEM IN ITS WEIRD COLOR...

WH-WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S **VERA!** HERE SHE COMES!



THEY RUSHED OUTSIDE TO WITNESS A DAZZLING SIGHT...

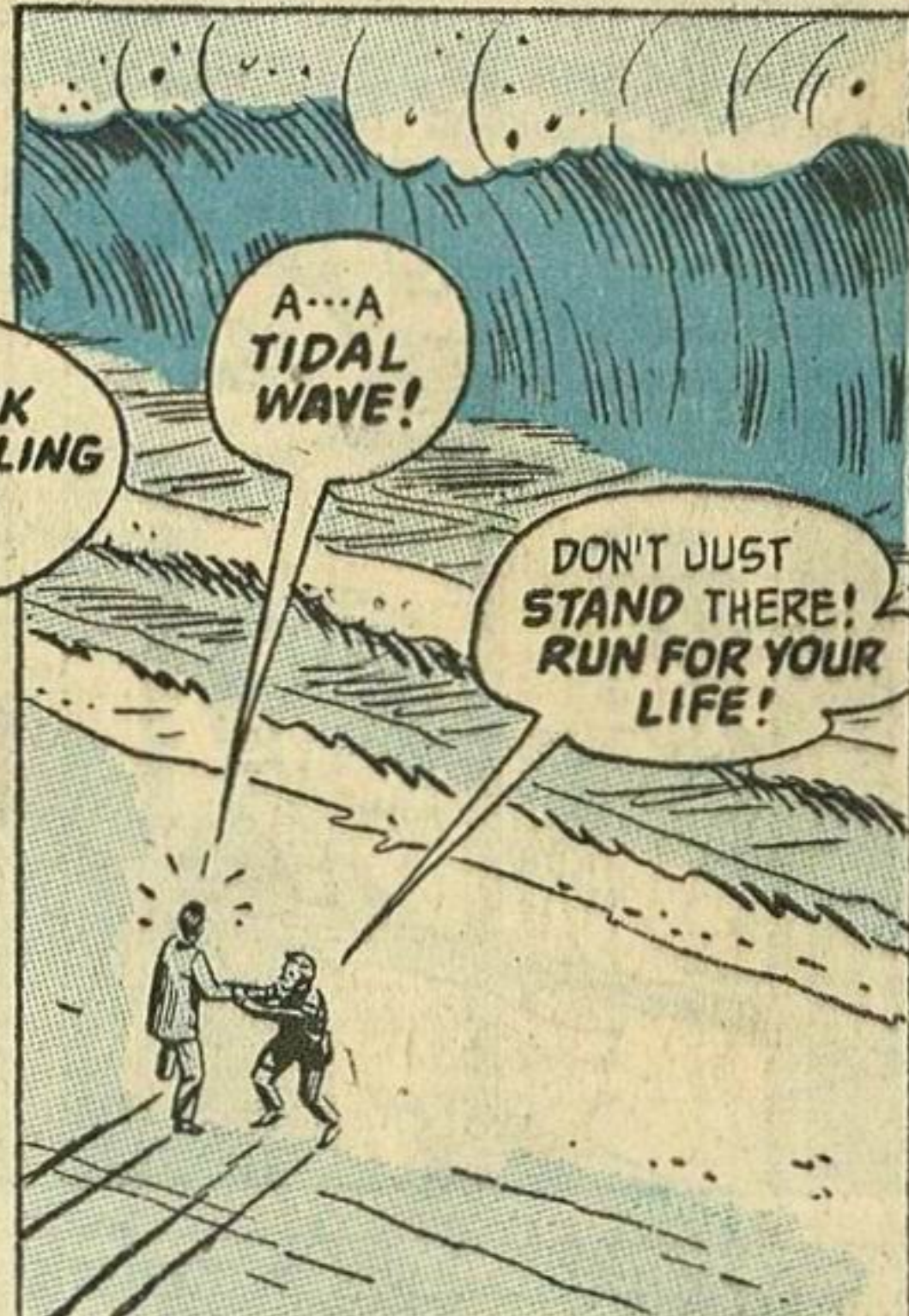
SO WHAT IF IT **IS** HER? HOW CAN SHE HURT ME?

GOOD HEAVENS! LOOK AT WHAT'S ROLLING IN FROM THE SEA!

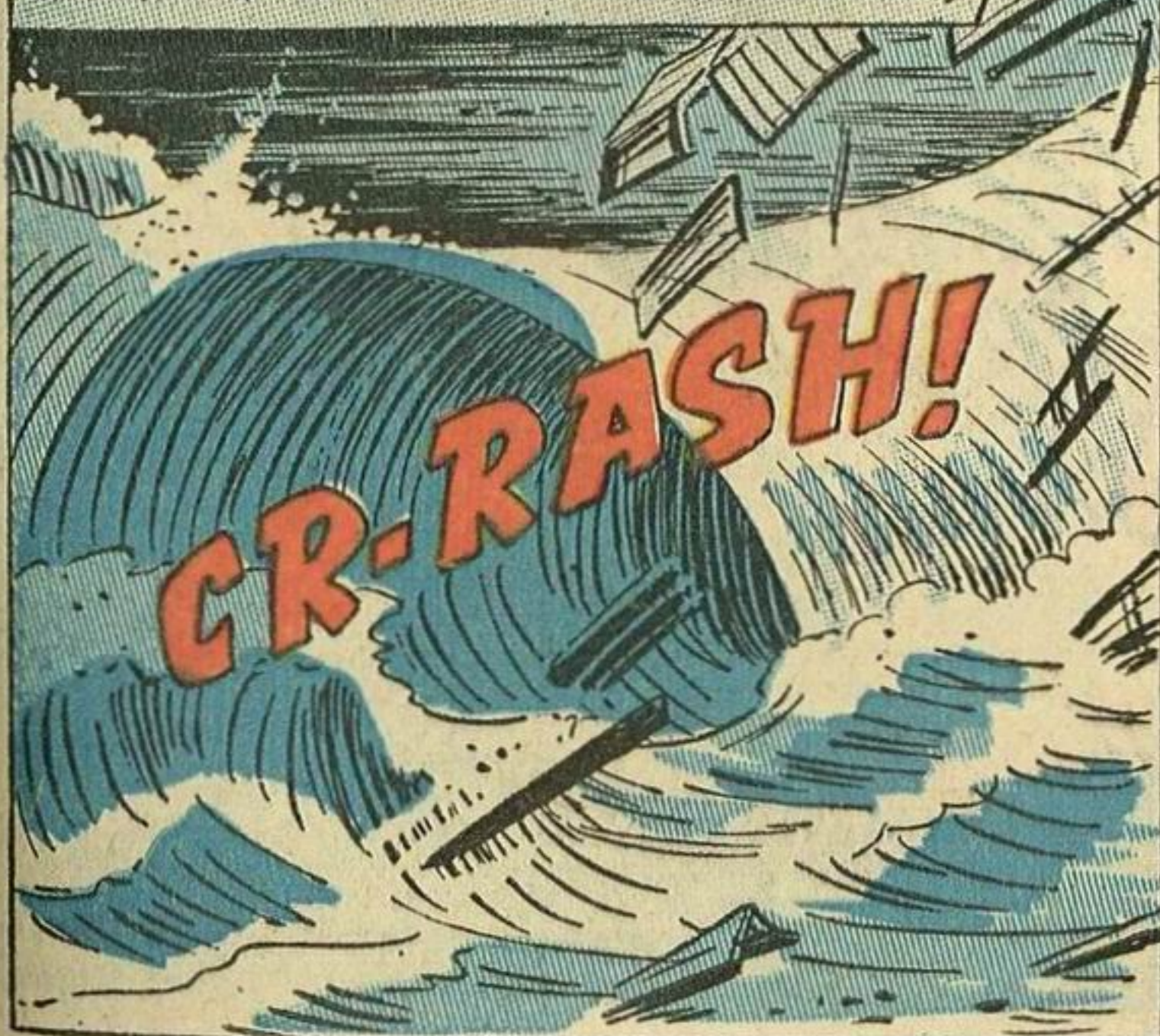


A...A TIDAL WAVE!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!



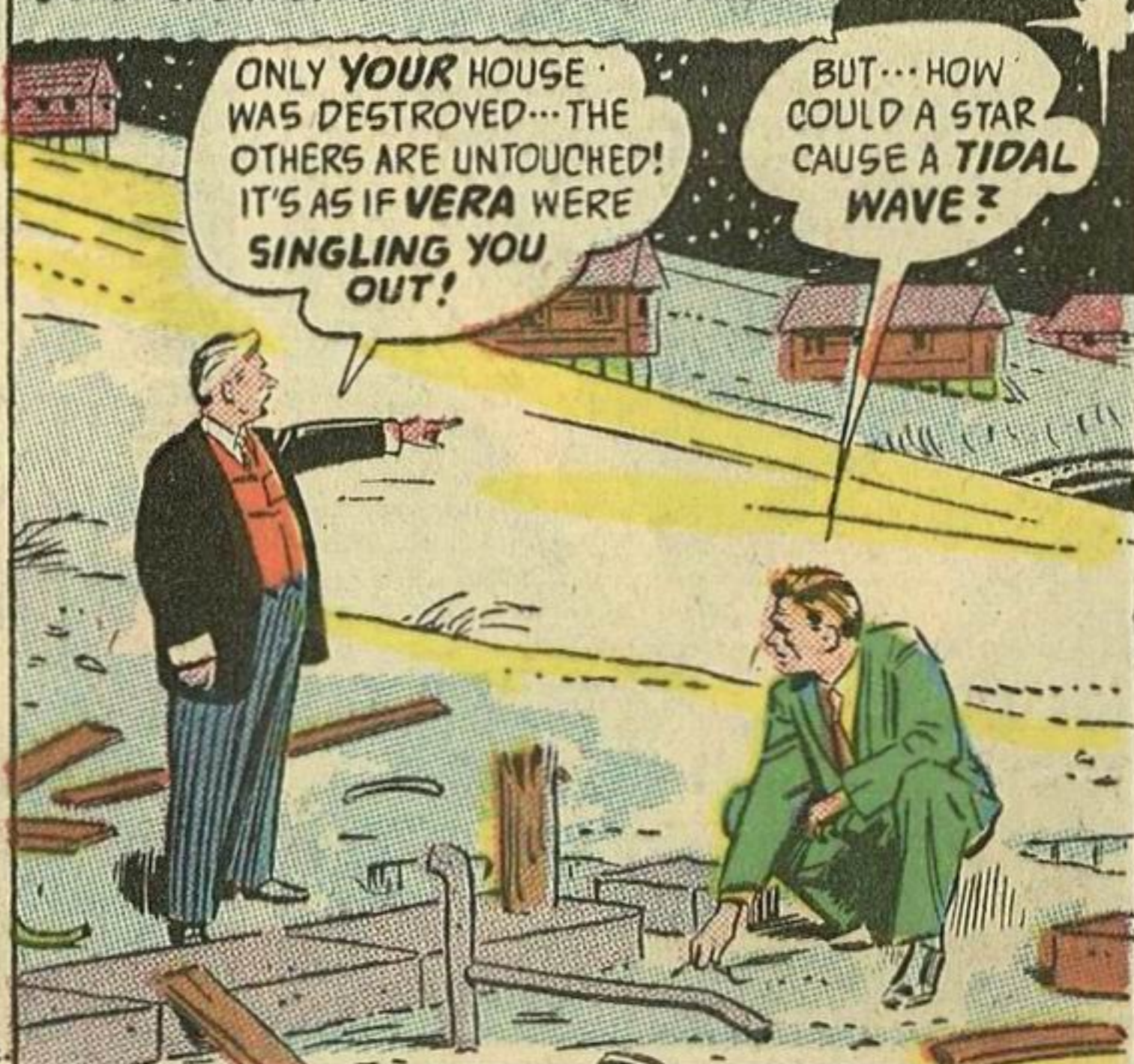
TONS OF WATER SWEEP IRRESISTIBLY OVER THE BEACH... BARE MOMENTS AFTER THE TWO MEN HAD DASHED TO SAFETY!



WHEN THE MIGHTY WAVE HAD SPENT ITSELF...

ONLY **YOUR** HOUSE WAS DESTROYED... THE OTHERS ARE UNTOUCHED! IT'S AS IF **VERA** WERE SINGLING YOU OUT!

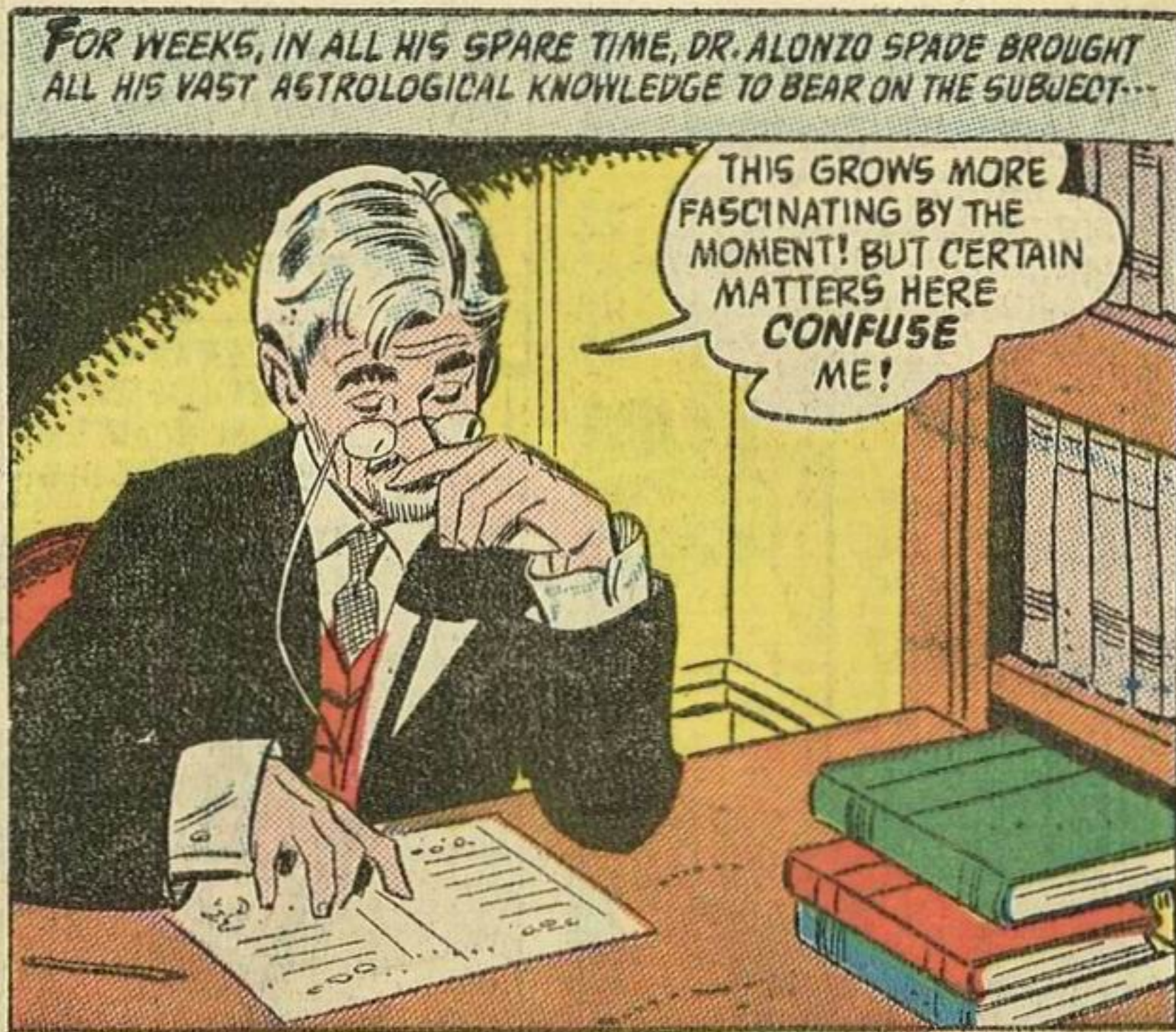
BUT... HOW COULD A STAR CAUSE A TIDAL WAVE?





VERA CAME SO CLOSE TO THE EARTH THAT SHE AFFECTED THE TIDES... THE WAY THE MOON DOES! DO YOU STILL SCOFF?

N-NO... NOW I'M CONVINCED! DR. SPADE, I WANT YOU TO DRAW UP MY HOROSCOPE... SO I'LL HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT!



FOR WEEKS, IN ALL HIS SPARE TIME, DR. ALONZO SPADE BROUGHT ALL HIS VAST ASTROLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE TO BEAR ON THE SUBJECT...

THIS GROWS MORE FASCINATING BY THE MOMENT! BUT CERTAIN MATTERS HERE CONFUSE ME!



THE HOROSCOPE INDICATES THAT THE STAR'S BALEFUL INFLUENCE WILL LAST EVEN BEYOND ITS DESTRUCTION! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHAT 'DESTRUCTION' IS HINTED AT?

I WISH I KNEW!



SHORTLY AFTERWARD THE MYSTERY WAS DISPELLED! ROBERT WAS ALONE AT HOME WHEN...

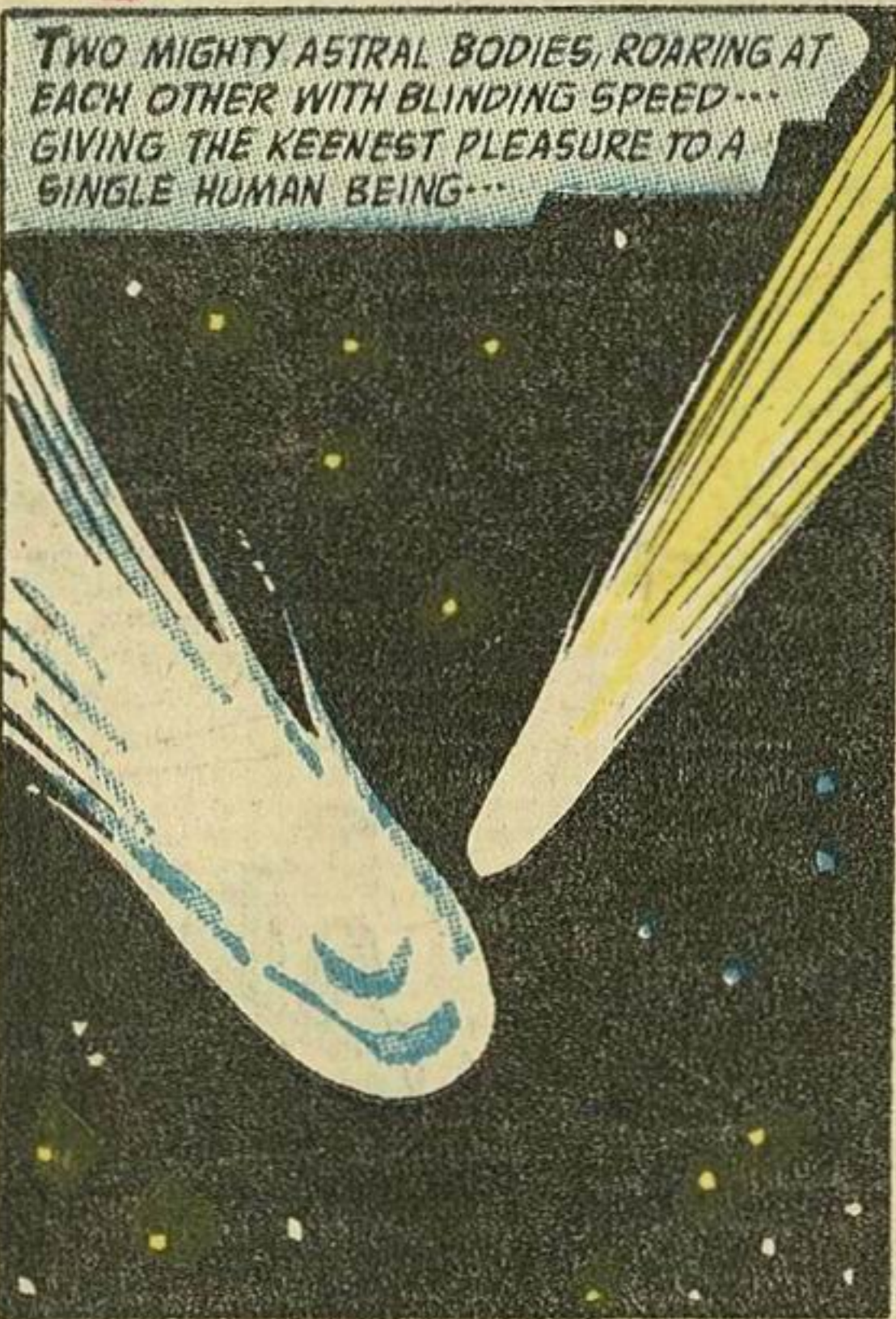
WE INTERRUPT TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN! UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMERS HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED AN IMMINENT COLLISION IN THE HEAVENS BETWEEN THE STAR VERA AND A HUGE METEOR! THE CATASTROPHE IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AFTER TEN TONIGHT...

HALLELUJAH!



AT THE APPOINTED TIME, ROBERT FOSTER STOOD ON HIS ROOFTOP, FIELDGLASSES IN HAND, WAITING ENTHUSIASTICALLY...

YAHOOO! LET 'ER RIP!

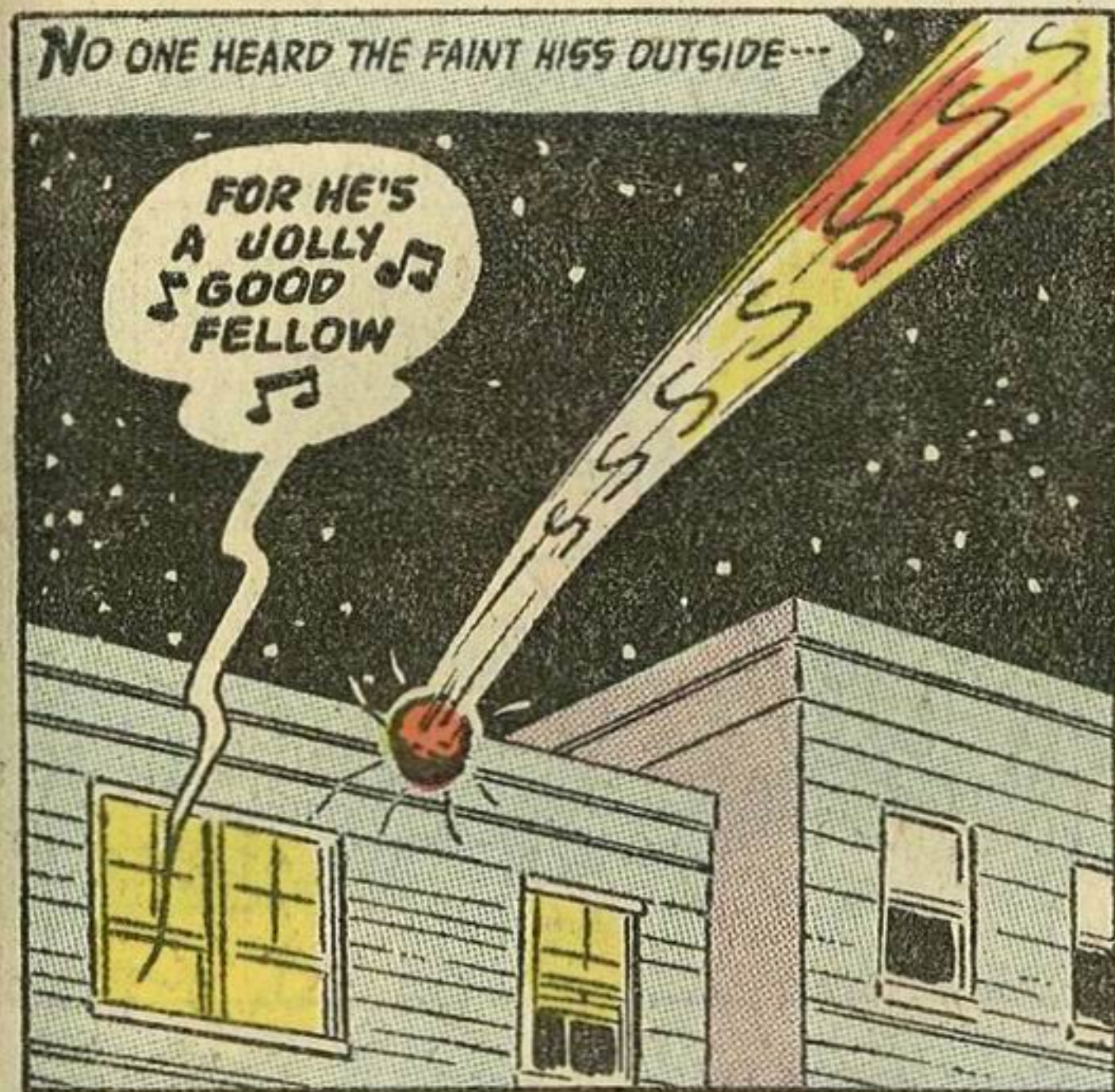


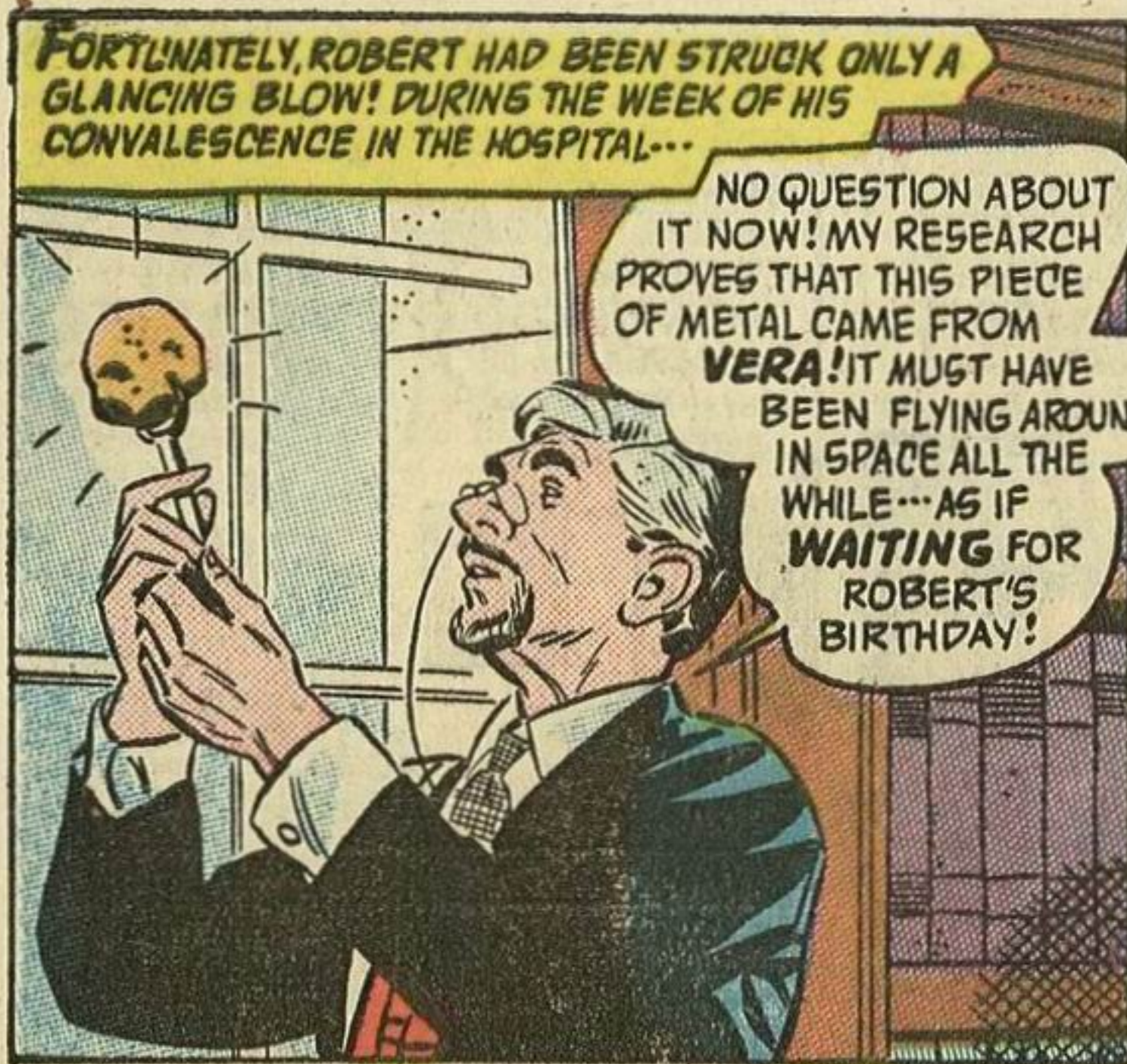
TWO MIGHTY ASTRAL BODIES, ROARING AT EACH OTHER WITH BLINDING SPEED... GIVING THE KEENEST PLEASURE TO A SINGLE HUMAN BEING...



NEXT MOMENT...

BARR-ROOOM!





FORTUNATELY, ROBERT HAD BEEN STRUCK ONLY A GLANCING BLOW! DURING THE WEEK OF HIS CONVALESCENCE IN THE HOSPITAL...

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT NOW! MY RESEARCH PROVES THAT THIS PIECE OF METAL CAME FROM **VERA!** IT MUST HAVE BEEN FLYING AROUND IN SPACE ALL THE WHILE... AS IF **WAITING** FOR ROBERT'S BIRTHDAY!



WHEN THE PATIENT WAS ALMOST FULLY RECOVERED...

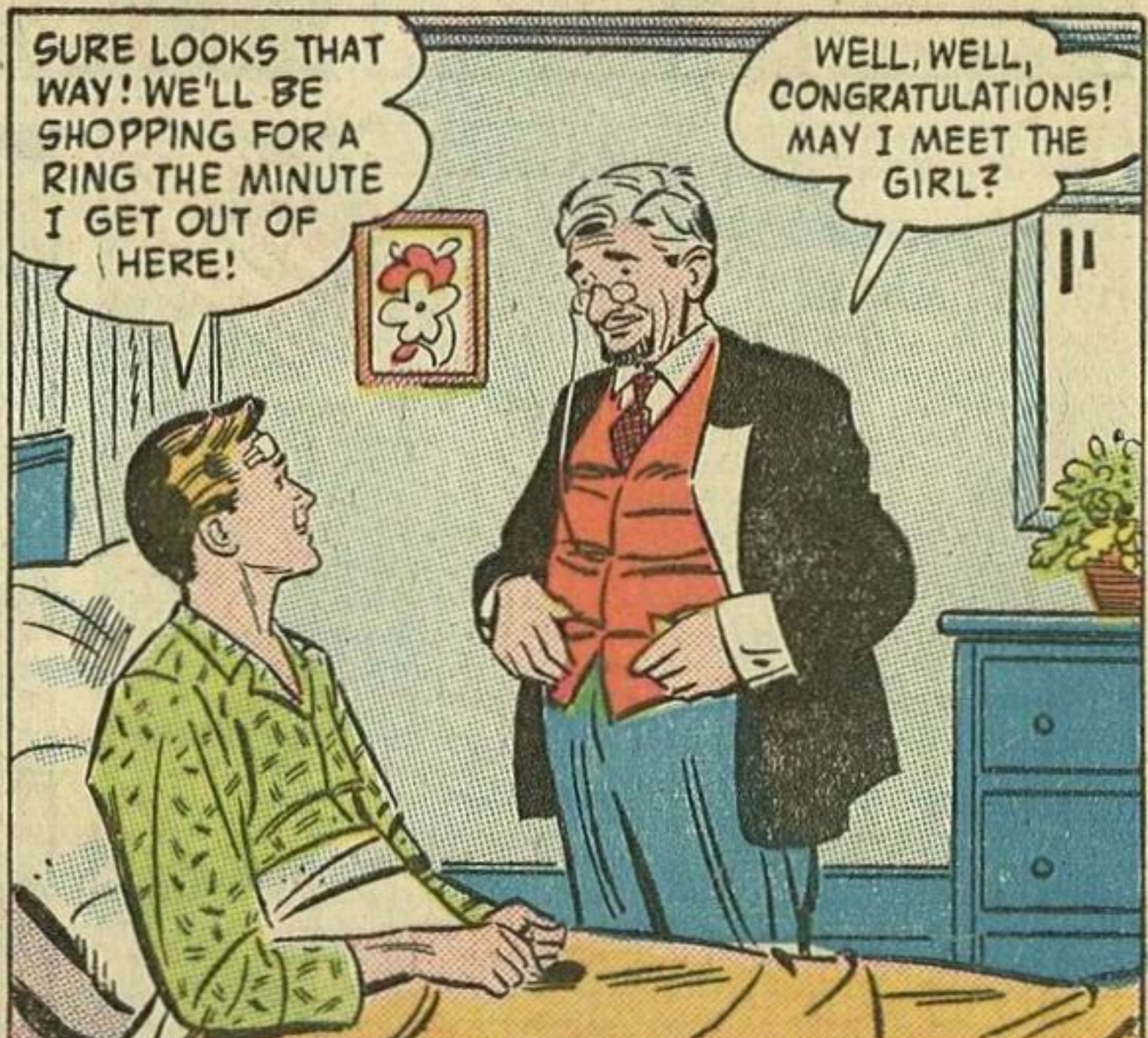
WELL, MY BOY... IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE YOU'RE ON YOUR FEET! I'M **AMAZED** AT YOUR SWIFT RECOVERY!

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE GREAT **NURSE** I'VE GOT!



MATTER OF FACT, I FELL IN **LOVE** WITH THE GIRL AT FIRST SIGHT! SHE SAYS IT TOOK **HER** ABOUT FIVE MINUTES!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU MEAN THAT COMING TO THIS HOSPITAL HAS ACTUALLY RESULTED IN SOME **GOOD FORTUNE** FOR YOU?



SURE LOOKS THAT WAY! WE'LL BE SHOPPING FOR A RING THE MINUTE I GET OUT OF HERE!

WELL, WELL, CONGRATULATIONS! MAY I MEET THE GIRL?



MOMENTS LATER...

WAS I EXAGGERATING?

NOT A BIT... SHE'S **BEAUTIFUL!** WHY DON'T YOU **INTRODUCE** US, ROBERT?



OH, I BEG YOUR PARDON! DOCTOR, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FIANCEE... **VERA!**

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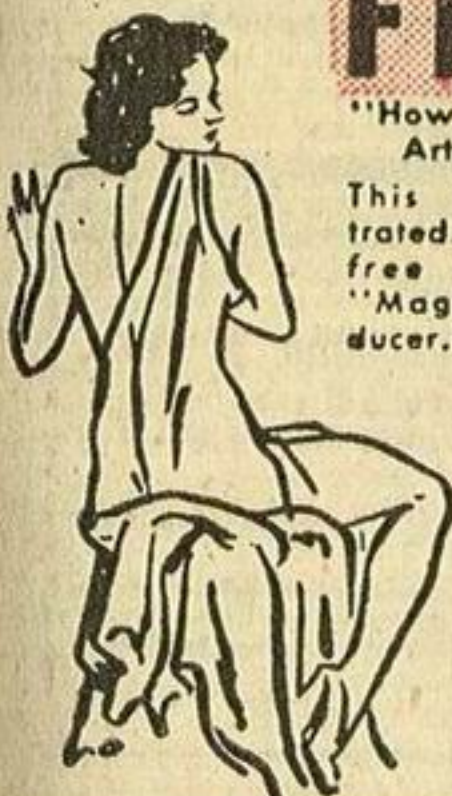
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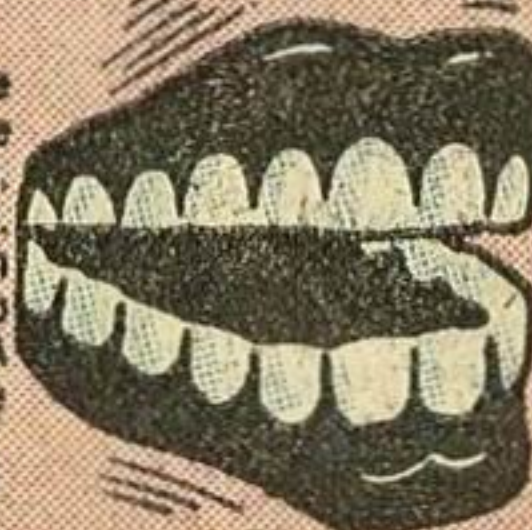
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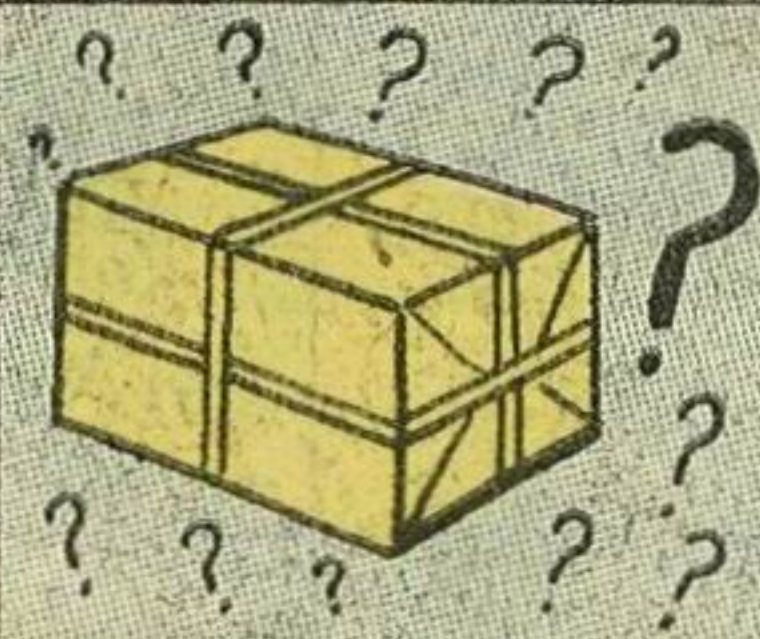


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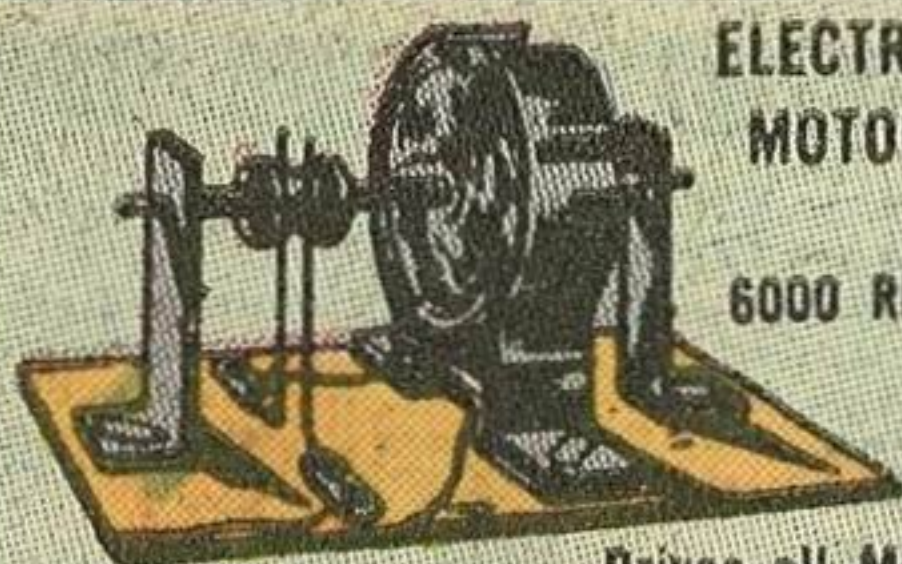
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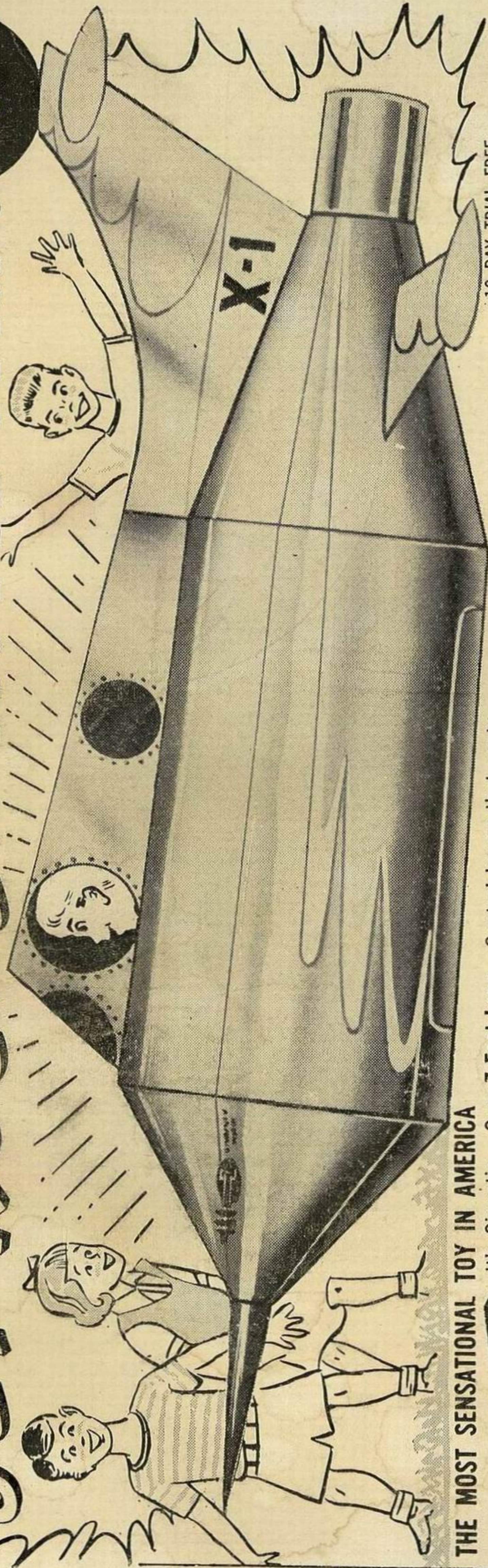
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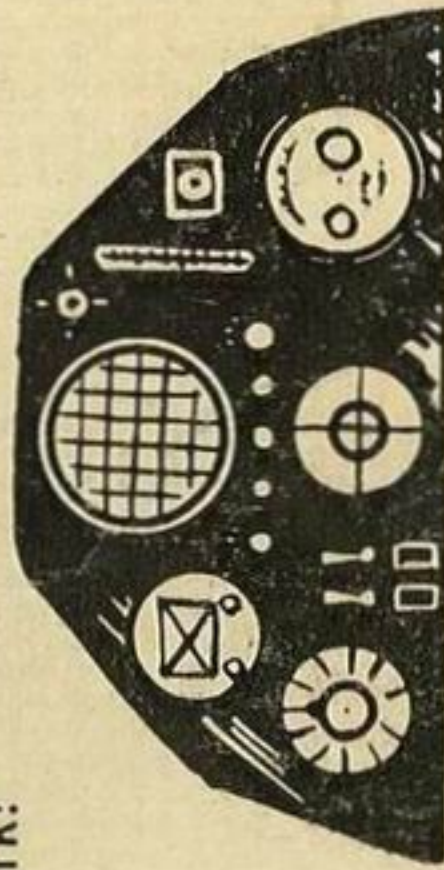
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